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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

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The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be a copy for any writer, either information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

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3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR JUNE.

Max B. Thrasher, First Prize.
Frederick E. Burnham, Second Prize.
Bourdon Wilson, Third Prize.
George Smith, Fourth Prize.
Blanche Trenner Heath, Fifth Prize.

How Lord Bartram Came Into His Title.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MAX B. THRASHER.

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THE LAST mule had been dragged on board, kicking or balking, with long ears laid back in rage. The anchors had been hoisted, the prow of the boat turned out into the Gulf of Mexico, past Port Bolivar, and the propeller had begun the methodical churning which was not to cease until it had driven the steamer Atlas from Galveston to Cape Town. The Atlas had on board Texas mules, four hundred of them, bought by the British Government for transport service in South Africa.

A sailor came to the open door of the captain's cabin on the upper deck.

"Mr. Scorrow sent me to tell you, sir," the man said, raising his hand to his cap in salute, "as how we have found a stowaway among the fodder."

"What kind of a stowaway?"

"A man sir. A white man."

"Tell Mr. Scorrow to send him up here."

The windows and door of the cabin were open and the captain sat where he could enjoy the breeze which the motion of the boat produced. After the heat of Galveston harbor it was refreshing.

Two sailors came on deck with a man between them. He was a strongly built, long limbed fellow, ragged and dirty. A stubble of beard disfigured his face, but his forehead, where the sweat had washed it clean, was white.

"Well?" said the captain harshly, looking at him. "What have you got to say for yourself?"

"Nothing," said the man sullenly. "I had to get out of the state, and this was the chance which offered."

"Do you know where you are going?"

"I do now. The men below told me. I didn't when I came on board."

When the tramp spoke the captain looked at him curiously. Then he turned to the man. "You may go," he said. "Tell Mr. Scorrow I would like to see him here in about ten minutes." When they were left alone he turned to the man again.

"You are English," he said.

"Yes."

"I came from Sussex myself. Do you want

to tell me how you happen to be here?"

"No."

"I can send you back to Galveston by the pilot boat, or I can work you to Cape Town and give you a chance to enlist. Which had you rather I would do?"

The man laughed rather bitterly. "It's a case of between the devil and the deep sea," he said. Then he ran his hand over his stubbly beard. "How long is the voyage?" he asked.

"About a month."

"I'll take Cape Town and the army," he said. "You'd better. These are times when England needs her men under her own flag."

The first mate was coming across the deck. "Mr. Scorrow," said the captain, "take this man down and keep him at work among the mules until we get to the Cape."

Six weeks later the stowaway, a broad shouldered soldier with a thick blonde beard, was enrolled as Private John Benner, of Her Majesty's forces in South Africa.

Lord Alfred Bartram of Nene and Stillings was smoking in his tent beside the Tugela river and talking with two of his military companions who had dropped around to see him that evening. One of the men was a viscount and the other was the son of a duke. They and Lord Bartram had gone out from England with that company of Mounted Yeomanry whose roll call of aristocrats had been covertly sneered at by the world, until the cabled lists of dead and wounded sent back from South Africa showed the world once more that the accident of birth made no difference in the way English born men fought and died.

After a little one of the men walked back to his own tent. The man who had remained was Lord Bartram's cousin, and after a little, being alone, the talk of the two men drifted back to home and those who had been left there.

"I have been thinking of Edward a great deal since I have been here," said Lord Bartram. "When we were boys at home we used to plan how we would go to the wars together, when we had grown up."

"Life is a lot different from what we plan, isn't it?" the other said.

"Yes. It is ten years this month since he went away from home, and five since we heard of his death."

The two men smoked in silence for a little while. Something, a stray dog or perhaps a water rat, rustled the grass on the rocks behind the tent.

"It has meant a good deal to you, though, his going," the visitor finally said.

"There never has been a moment since Ned went away," his lordship broke out eagerly, "that I wouldn't gladly have given up the property and the title if I could have had my brother back, an honest man—I mean a man with no doubt on his name; honest I know he was, in intention at least. Whatever could be brought against him was by accident and not by design, I know, so—"

"What?"

Both men sprang to their feet in alarm. A big, yellow bearded soldier had fallen between the flaps of the rear of the tent, flat on the ground between the two men where they had been talking. Before he could rise one of the men in the tent had pinned the fallen man down by putting a knee on his neck, while the other shouted to alarm the guard.

The man was taken away and put in irons.

"A spy," some said.

"Good God, Bartram!" his cousin said, after the excitement was over, "What is the matter? You are as white as a sheet. No wonder, though," he added. "It was enough to startle any one."

"Yes," said the other. "I am all upset."

Late that evening, after he had been left alone, Lord Bartram sent a message to the commanding general to ask permission to see the man who had been captured in the tent. The request was granted.

His lordship found the prisoner in irons, confined in a stone barn which was being used as a calaboose. "I want to see this man alone," he said to the guard.

"Yes sir. All right sir," said the guard, holding tight in one hand the coin which the visitor had given him, while he brought his other hand to his head in salute.

"Edward!" said the visitor, when he and the prisoner were left alone together. Then, when there was no answer, "Ned!"

The man in irons looked up, at that, and rose to his feet. "Well?" he said gruffly; but there were tears in his eyes.

"What were you listening outside my tent for?"

"How did you know me?" the stranger said, ignoring the question. "Haven't ten years changed me?"

"I knew you by your finger, first; and then I saw your face sideways, against the light."

The man lifted his manacled hands and looked down to where a half of the third finger on the right hand was gone.

"Don't you remember," the other asked, "how my axe slipped when we were making cricket wickets, and I cut that finger off, and then how you told father it was your fault?"

"Edward!" he asked once more. "Tell me what you were behind my tent for. You are not a spy?"

"A spy? Who says that?" The man's eyes

flashed. "Never! I have been bad enough; and don't ask me to tell you what I was there for Alf; but not that. I am as honest a soldier to my country as the Queen—God bless her—ever had."

"Thank God," said the other man. A moment later he added, "I will see the general at once and have you taken out of here. You will come to my tent to-night—your tent, in fact it will be, for you are Lord Bartram now, instead of me—and in the morning I will have a public announcement made of your return."

"Not so fast," said the other man with a little laugh in spite of himself. "You still go at things just as you did at the cricket stakes that day you lopped off my finger. I shall stay here to-night, and there will be no announcement to-morrow. You will remain what you have been practically ever since father's death, Lord Bartram."

"Never!" cried the other. "I won't allow it!"

"Easy, there," was the answer. "Do you want to make things worse than they are now? Your older brother has been dead for the last five years—that is, he has been dead so far as the world which knows you is concerned—and the memory of his bad reputation is being forgotten. Suppose I were to come back. There is a price on my head in the States, under my own name, too, for a crime for which extradition is possible."

"I didn't do it. I really didn't, Alf," he hurried to add, "but I could never prove I didn't; and besides—there are other things. The name of the House is all right yet, Alf, thanks to father and to you, and," with a little catch in his voice, "I'd rather leave it so than be Lord Bartram of Nene and Stillings."

And nothing that the younger man could say could change his determination. "You will only bring disgrace on yourself and imprisonment on me, if you persist in letting on who I am," he said. "You may get me out of this scrape, if you want to, and if it could be done, Alf, and you were willing," after a minute's hesitation, "I wish I might be transferred into your company. No one else will know me. And then after the war is over I'll settle down here to ostrich raising or diamond digging or some other reputable occupation like that, and once in a while perhaps you will come out here to hunt big game and see me."

"Just one thing more, Alf, while we're talking about this," he added. "I want to tell you that I heard what you said about me in the tent that night—I was listening—and it made a new man of me. I didn't suppose then there was any one in the world—my old world, anyway—that still trusted me."

And in the end he had his way, for the time being at any rate.

The Battle of Spion Kop! Who is there who does not know about it? Who is there who has not read how the British charged again and again up that precipitous mountain side, gained the summit, held it for a night and then were swept back again?

A newspaper correspondent in his account of the battle wrote:

"Among those who were wounded was Lord Alfred Bartram. Undoubtedly Lord Bartram would have been killed outright had it not been for the devotion of one of the men of his company who threw himself in front of his lordship at a critical moment, and was killed by a blow which otherwise would have slain the officer. The name of the soldier who was killed could not be learned, but he was a powerfully built man with a full light beard."

But Lord Bartram knew the name of the man who had given his life for his own, and in time he took back to England with him this man's body, and buried it in the family vault of the gray old church at Nene, and had carved on the slab above, "Edward Wesbeach, Lord Bartram of Nene and Stillings. Killed at the Battle of Spion Kop."

THE SHADOW OF LIFE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FREDERICK E. BURNHAM.

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TTO Fischer and Henry Dustin, two college students, left the university early in June, 18—, with little money at their disposal, a plight in which not a few young men find themselves when the coveted diploma is finally in their hands.

A company was about to start for the Klondike, and having talked the matter over pro and con, nothing better offering itself, Fischer and

Dustin joined the prospectors and were shortly enroute for the Upper Yukon.

The details of that journey are of little moment; suffice it to say that they arrived at Forty Mile Creek in due time and at once began work, meeting with indifferent success during the first few weeks, discouraging enough after reading the intoxicating reports of those who had returned with rich finds of the yellow dust.

Rumors were almost daily reaching camp of marvelous deposits located on Sixty Mile Creek, removed from the creek where they had begun mining some fifty miles. Dissatisfied with the amounts panned each day, Fischer and Dustin finally broke camp and started alone for the alleged bonanza fields, carrying their utensils, rifles and supplies sufficient to last two months.

It was evident from the very first of their prospecting in the new fields that the rumors which had reached them were not without foundation, forty dollars to the pan being no unusual find.

The two young men had been in their new quarters about a week when their work was suddenly interrupted and put an end to by a party of Indians, who surprised them one morning, appropriated everything of value in the camp, and marched them back into the mountains, compelling obedience at the muzzle of rifles. Late in the day a halt was made where there was an encampment of natives, and the two captives, ignorant of the cause which led to their removal, were thrust into a wigwam, and bound hand and foot.

During the early evening a continual conversation was carried on without the tent where they were confined; one of the Indians, evidently a medicine man, pointing now and then to the wigwam, making all manner of passes with his hands.

At daybreak an interpreter entered the wigwam and spoke briefly.

"Medicine man say you heap bad man," said he, pointing to Fischer, "sell braves black dirt for gunshot. You die to-day."

"What do you mean?" demanded Otto, wrathfully, "I haven't been in this part of the country ten days."

"See," said the Indian, pointing to three lines which he had made in the dirt with a stick, "that many moons since, you come here bringing sledge-load of black dirt like this," he continued, displaying a handful of coal dust, "sell all the braves for big bags of dust. Braves put black dirt in guns; guns no shoot any more. Great Eagle, big medicine man, say you die when he see you again. Great Eagle and braves hunting; sudden he point down the stream; 'heap bad man,' said he,

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THE GIANT OXEN PILL DEPT., Augusta, Maine.

'Call braves dirt for gun-shoot.' Braves run down bank and bring you to wigwam; council held last night; today you die. Great Eagle heap big medicine man say it, and his word is so."

There was no use to argue the question with redskins; the word of the medicine man counted for more with the Indians than the testimony of a thousand white men. Ready wit, alone, stood between Otto and death.

The interpreter presently took his departure and for a few moments neither of the young men spoke. It was one of those times when words are incapable of expressing the thoughts.

"How would it do to pose as medicine men?" said Fischer at length.

"It would be all right if we could perform something wonderful in their eyes," replied Dustin, "that is the important point, of course."

"There's to be an eclipse of the sun day after tomorrow," said Otto.

"Yes?"

"Suppose we were to foretell the day and hour?"

The idea was a capital one and Dustin jumped at it.

"A medicine man is a big man here?" queried Otto, when the interpreter returned an hour later with food and water.

"Heap big man," grunted the redskin.

"Can Great Eagle tell when the black round cloud goes across the sun?"

The Indian did not reply for a moment, but suddenly his face brightened as though he had recalled a forgotten event.

"No, no, only Great Spirit tell that," said he. "I see it once, many moons ago. Bring heap peck furs that winter; all braves have tobacco, wumpum and blankets."

"If I tell when shadow comes again, what would braves do? let us go?"

The Indian grunted, but otherwise made no reply, shortly leaving the wigwam. Later he returned.

"Great Eagle say you no tell that," said he, "you heap bad man to say so. He say if you can, you can go home, but if you tell lies and no do so, you be burnt to death. He say you no try tell, you (pointing to Dustin) can go home when bad white man dead. He say you burnt to death, bad man tell lie, no tell when shadow come."

Fischer and Dustin, both, were deeply interested in astronomy at college and had stood high in their classes. For weeks they had been planning to figure out the exact hour and minute when the eclipse would begin in the section where they were working. The question that now confronted them was the advisability of attempting to astonish the redskins, running the risk of a horrible death through a possible error in calculations.

"Shall we attempt it?" asked Otto in German.

Dustin's response was immediate and hearty.

"I insist; we have a hundred chances of winning and only one of losing."

"But you are sure of freedom as it is, Henry."

"And I will not accept it except you share the same."

"Tell Great Eagle and the braves that we will tell the time when the shadow will pass over the sun," said Otto, turning to the savage, "tomorrow at sunset we will prophesy."

All that night Fischer and Dustin worked over the problem which rightly solved meant life. From the class book which Otto chanced to have with him when pounced upon by the Indians, the necessary figures upon which to base their calculations were obtained, and they worked with grim earnestness throughout the night, comparing notes from time to time. Four times was the problem worked out, and four times the same result was obtained.

2.37 42" P. M. was the answer, indicating the beginning of the eclipse. The eclipse would become visible so that there could be no mistaking it a few minutes later.

The following day Fischer and Dustin noted a point on the ground where the shadow of a stake fell at two-thirty seven, and marked the place.

At sunset Great Eagle, accompanied by the interpreter came to the wigwam where the two young men were confined, and through the latter, asked Otto to prophesy.

"Lying dog," said the interpreter, "tell when the shadow will cross the sun."

"The sun casts a shadow when its rays fall on tree or stake," said Otto, "and the child of the forest tells the hour of day by it."

Great Eagle nodded assent when the interpreter had repeated the words.

"The cloud that crosses the sun once in many moons is to pass that way once more on the morrow—"

"You lie!" said the medicine man, through the interpreter.

"When the shadow of this stake is at this point," continued Otto, not noticing the interruption, "then shall it come about, even as I have declared."

The following morning dawned fair and clear and quickly all was commotion about the encampment. Couriers were dispatched to adjacent settlements, or rather communities of savages, and by noon the Indians from the distance began to arrive, and at once preparations were commenced for a great dance which was to take place as soon as the words of the white prophet were proved false, which with

one and all of the redskins was a foregone conclusion.

Slowly the minutes passed, and more slowly it seemed, the shadow of the aforesaid stake crept toward the mark which had been set up, indicating the hour when the eclipse would occur.

A few rods distant several redskins were busily engaged collecting brushwood, which they were piling about two spruce trees, distant from one another perhaps fifty feet. Nothing was said, but the two college boys knew what it meant, and they found that the cold sweat was beginning to stand out all over them, and as the moments passed the suspense became almost unbearable.

Great Eagle was rigged out in all his glory, confident that nothing could shake his words, declaring with great vehemence that no one, save the Great Spirit, could foretell such an event, and that swift vengeance would overtake the false prophets.

Five inches, four inches, three inches separated the creeping shadow and the fatal line. Confident and exultant, Great Eagle pointed with scorn to the young men and then at the shadow. As the moments passed, the braves crowded about the spot, grunting and jeering after their manner.

Presently the confusion began to subside, and as the edge of the shadow touched the line no sound was heard, save the whispering of the breeze in the spruce boughs.

Great drops of sweat stood upon the faces of the two young men as they looked upward at the sun. Great Eagle saw that they were shaken and uttered a grunt of satisfaction.

But hold! Was it imagination? Had just a suspicion of a shadow appeared on the edge of the sun?

Great Eagle placed his hand so as to shade his eyes. Other braves were following his example. Otto and Henry, alone, now calm and collected, satisfied that no slip had been made, waited.

Deeper and deeper grew the eclipse as the shadow of the moon passed on its way across the sun.

"Great Eagle foretells many wonderful things," said the medicine man, speaking through the interpreter, "but from him the Great Spirit has withheld the prophecy of the passing of the cloud across the sun. Great Eagle kneels before the white prophets, whom the Great Spirit has talked with. Great Eagle is as a papoose before a brave."

"The white prophets have been wrongfully accused and held as prisoners," continued the Indian, "let every brave do all in his power to repair this wrong done the Great Spirit's prophets. Depart to your wigwams and return with that which will best please the white man."

Scarcely had the Indian ceased speaking when the gathering of braves broke up, long before the eclipse became total.

Immediately were Otto and Henry summoned before the wigwam of the medicine man. The best in the camp was at their disposal. The choicest venison was prepared and corn bread cooked. Nothing was too good for the white prophets.

That night a great dance was held, and Fischer and Dustin were the guests of honor. In spite of the remonstrances of the two young men, the Indians came one by one and brought that which was dear to his heart; one a valuable skin; another a pony; another a string of beads.

The night passed, and with the morning came four Indian runners, drawing a sledge. Fischer and Dustin were bundled aboard and taking the trail over the mountains, they bore them, two drawing the sledge, others bearing the presents which the Indians forced them to accept.

At the stream where they had been surprised a few days previous, the young men recommenced work, and the amount of dust panned showed that there was every reason for believing that large returns would reward their efforts.

A WAY TO SOLVE A VEXING PROBLEM.

That ever difficult question, "Where to go for a vacation?" again confronts us, and a most perplexing problem it is. Northern New England, without a doubt, offers a greater variety of vacation places, including lake, mountain and seashore resorts than any other section of the country.

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THE ANGEL OF SAN DIABLO.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BOURDON WILSON.

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CLUSTER of hovels—miners' shacks and shanties, whiskey dens and gambling hells, jacals and basheries, and a blacksmith shop, but never a church or spire. A bedlam of noises—oaths and curses, flutter of cards and rattle of chips, popping of corks and clinking of glasses and now and then a pistol shot, but never a prayer. A little army of people—burly Americans and swarthy Mexicans, a few silent Indians, one African, and a Chinaman or two, but never a woman. That was San Diablo.

Small wonder that the advent of "The Angel," as the dainty little woman was immediately denominated, should have created a furore in the place. She was discovered one morning by "Sheeny" Dave standing forlornly in front of the hut where the daily, or nightly to be exact, stage deposited its occasional passenger; and at first sight she set him to trembling violently, for he had been freely indulging in stimulants of late and thought he had "them" again. But as she did not resolve into either sea-serpent or gila monster, he regained courage, and approaching her, hat in hand, bowed low and gallantly proffered his services.

She did need a little assistance, she answered with a winsome smile; she expected the Reverend John Edwards, with whose family she was to live, to meet her at the stage; but he had failed to come and would the gentleman be so kind as to direct her to his residence?

Dave gasped, then pinched himself to make sure that he was awake, and with another bow, expressed his sorrow that he did not know the gent named—at least not by that name. But if she wished, he would rustle up some of the other boys and see if they knew him. She did wish this, and again bowing low he turned and hurried away. His was startling news and quickly spreading to the uttermost limits of the camp, it soon gathered a crowd of wondering but respectful men in the vicinity of The Angel. But none of these could give her any information concerning the Reverend John Edwards; there was not in the camp such a man as she described; and was she certain that he had told her to come to San Diablo?

"San Diablo!" she exclaimed; "why, of course not. San Pablo; and is not this San Pablo?"

"Not by er d—!" Dave checked his tongue in time, and then he explained that San Pablo lay two hundred miles southward; that she must have taken the wrong stage when she changed at Cuername; and that the driver must have been drunk, as Mexicans usually were when they could raise the price, or he would have discovered her mistake.

Evidently this was discomfiting information to The Angel, for she looked wildly around a moment, then covered her face with her hands and burst into tears. Instantly, as one man, the crowd moved toward her, but halted as suddenly, abashed by the thought that such as they could say nothing to assuage the grief of one so refined and lovely as she. Now they drew back a distance to hold a whispered consultation, and that ended Dave again drew near to her.

"Scuse me, Miss," he said, in his embarrassment almost pulling his hat to pieces, "but it's got th' boys all broke up seein' yuh worryin' so, an' I've come ter see if there ain't somethin' we kin do to stop them purty eyes o' your'n frum leakin'. All you've got ter do is ter stand pat 'til th' stage comes 'long back ter take yur ter San Pablo, an' I reckon we can rustle up er game er some kind ter amuse yuh 'til then."

But she sobbed the more violently; she had had only sufficient money to take her to San Pablo, where she was going to assist Mr. Edwards in his missionary work, she explained; and so—and so she was without means to pay her passage to San Pablo.

Dave retreated precipitately to report her answer to his fellows. "She's down on her luck, boys—plumb busted!" he exclaimed; "an' as gents it's our duty ter stake her, but how in h—l we're goin' ter do it gits next ter me."

"W'y, pass th' hat an' raise er pot, o' course."

"O' course not!" returned Dave, scornfully. "Yuh don't sabb her kind, Bill, er yuh wouldn't make such er loco break as that; her kind won't sit in at no game 'less'n they're 'lowed



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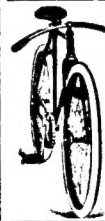
ter ante 'long with th' rest. What we've got ter do, boys," he went on, "is ter give 'er a job an' pay her fer doin' it. Now, all I kin think of that suits her shape is school-teachin', but there's d—d little show ter teach school 'thout kids ter teach, I take it."

"W'y le's go ourselves." Somebody suggested.

"Wouldn't work worth er d—n!" Dave returned; "she'd sabb th' bluff an' call us down before th' draw. But—Oh, I say, boys!" he cried slapping his leg, "she said she was goin' ter do missionaryin' down ter San Pablo, so what's th' matter with givin' her er job o' that kind? We're needin' er Sunday school ter beat the band I take it."

This suggestion met with the hearty approval of the others, and returning to The Angel, Dave laid the proposition before her. For several minutes he spoke earnestly of the camp's need of a missionary; of the boys' eagerness to have her; and he strenuously urged her to remain. She made no immediate answer, but drying her eyes stood revolving the matter in her mind. Why not stay? she asked herself. Mr. Edwards could easily get somebody else to help him, and where else could she be of greater service to the cause than in this heretofore unknown pest-hole of iniquity? She was not disturbed by the reflection that she would be the only woman in the place; she was an apt student of human nature, and one glance at the faces of those rough, lawless men told her that nowhere would she be safer than in their midst; and she ended by deciding to remain.

When Dave communicated her answer to the boys, they gave vent to their delight in a prolonged cheer, and then began devising ways and means looking to her comfort. An unused shanty of two rooms that stood alone on a hillock near the camp was assigned her as a place of residence, and it was quickly stocked with a startling variety of things, every man in camp having contributed something toward its furnishing. The poor little house was the scene of wonderful disorder when The Angel took possession of it, but under the magic touch of her deft hands, the rude interior speedily took on



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a cheery, home-like aspect that drew looks of wonderment and longing from the boys.

This did not escape The Angel's eyes, and divining that it was their homelessness, and not innate viciousness, that impelled them to while away their idle time in the gambling halls, she invited them to spend their evenings with her. At first only a few accepted, but these finding it pleasant far beyond their expectation to be so entertained, and reporting to their fellows, the number of visitors quickly grew until the little sitting-room would be entirely filled before the evening was over. On these occasions she would talk to them of their lives, their work, and of their hopes for the future. Not once did she upbraid them for their wickedness, nor did she "preach" to them; but gently, under guise of pleasant conversation she showed them how abhorrent to her were intemperance, gambling, and the other vices with which they were afflicted. In no other way could she have so powerfully influenced them for their good, for, anxious to please her, they began weaning themselves from the things she disliked, and soon there was a perceptible falling off in the patronage of the gambling tables and saloons. The zenith of her influence was not reached, however, until Lucky Dan, the proprietor of the principal gambling house of the camp was brought high unto death by the knife of a murderous Mexican, and she had nursed him back to life and strength. He was now a slave to her wishes, and he immediately inaugurated a crusade against his fraternity that drove the last gambler from the place, and closed a majority of the saloons.

At this juncture The Angel concluded that the time was ripe for better things, and, with the consent of the boys, she applied to the Board of Missions for a clergyman to carry farther the good work she had so well begun. The Board responded promptly, sending the Reverend Charles Warren, a young man of much piety, learning, and sound sense, and under his direction the boys erected a rude adobe building wherein he should direct their lives heavenward. He saw the wisdom of The Angel's methods, and carefully refrained from berating the boys for their wickedness, and from picturing its awful consequences in the life hereafter; instead, he would explain to them in carefully chosen language the wrong of vice and crime, and how it sears the soul and deadens the conscience; next he would paint beautiful word pictures of the life that is free from sin; and then would close with the comforting assurance that through sincere repentance would their souls be washed pure and white.

Not long did he have to wait for results, for the boys, urged on by the tender, persuasive voice of The Angel, and led by Lucky Dan, one by one went forward and professed the deepest penitence for their past misdeeds. And at the end of six months' labor Mr. Warren was able to report that in all Mexico there was not a more flourishing mission than was his.

One Sunday morning the now quiet and orderly camp was thrown into a state of mild excitement by the arrival of a stranger whose clothes were of the regulation clerical pattern; he was met at the stage by Mr. Warren, who welcomed him with every evidence of delight, and then led him away to his place of residence. Later on in the day when the boys gathered in the church, it was to find the stranger seated beside Mr. Warren, and many were their conjectures concerning his presence there. They were not kept long in doubt. Mr. Warren presently rose, his face flushing hotly, and informed his congregation that a little surprise was in store for them. Since his coming to the camp, he went on, he had discovered that The Angel was the noblest woman in the world, and having promptly fallen in love with her, had won her promise to marry him and they were now about to be joined in holy wedlock. Immediately afterward, he and his bride would take the stage for the north, and the stranger, whom he introduced as the Reverend William Cutter, would continue the missionary work in his stead.

The boys were petrified with astonishment, and but few of them heard a word of the farewell sermon that followed; and the marriage, which came immediately afterward, was performed in a silence that was deathlike. At its end they recovered use of their muscles sufficiently to troop forward with listless, shuffling steps and silently hold for a moment the hands of bride and groom; and then they filed solemnly out of the church.

The following Sunday the Reverend William Cutter waited in vain for the gathering of his flock; not a man came, nor ever afterward did one of them darken the door of the church; and at the end of a two weeks' lonely sojourn in the place, Mr. Cutter silently folded his terti and took his departure. He was a man of much worldly wisdom.

HIS WIFE'S RIGHT HAND.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE SMITH.

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and say, "I told you so."

WEN Estelle Herbert married John Barstow the townspeople said of him, "What a fool a man is to be caught by a pretty face."

For the newly made husband was forty years of age, sedate and quiet, while his wife was twenty, handsome and vivacious.

Nevertheless, in the passing of five years the gossips found no occasion to recall their comments on the marriage,

Then came the robbery.

Some men, if they had been so rash as to keep a thousand dollars in money in the house, and it had been stolen, would have borne the loss in silence, rather than run the risk of having people say it served him right for such carelessness, but John Barstow was as simple as he was honest. He would not have stolen any other man's money, and until after the deed was done he did not think that any other man would steal his. So he told of the loss.

The town constable made a bold search for the thief, even going to the length of a two days' journey into another state, after a man who was said to look like a tramp whom Mrs. John Peters' niece had said she saw go by her aunt's house the day before the money was stolen. The man proved an easy alibi, though, and the constable hurried home, glad to escape a possible suit against himself for defamation of character.

When it was known that Adam Bromley, a handsome, reckless farm hand who had been working for Barstow's nearest neighbor for the last six months had thrown up his job, drawn what little money was due him, and left town the next day, some few people said, "Don't you think that looks suspicious?" but Barstow had said, when he heard them, "What nonsense! Adam was one of the best neighbors we ever had. He was always the man to come here when we changed works, or if they wanted any errand here. No. It couldn't have been Adam, could it, Estelle?"

And his wife had answered, "No." A year from that time John Barstow was robbed again, or rather, as before, money was stolen from his house. The first time it had been the proceeds from the sale of a lot of timber land; this time it was the money which had just been paid him for his spring's clip of wool.

"I'd always heard it said that lightning never struck twice in the same place," the farmer said ruefully to his neighbors when they upbraided him for his carelessness in letting this second loss be possible. "I thought I'd had my share of ill luck of that kind, and said so, didn't I Estelle, when I brought the money home and put it in the bureau?"

"Yes," said his wife, "you did." She spoke from within a smaller room, where she was fastening a long cloak about her. "I am going over to Martha's," she said when she came out of the room, "to borrow some yeast."

"It's funny," the farmer said, when his wife had gone out, to the neighbor who had come in to smoke with him, "Estelle thinks that nobody's yeast is good for anything but Martha's, and goes a mile to get it."

That night the two little children of a farm hand who not long before moved into a log house in a back lot came running home to their mother, crying, because they were frightened.

"It serves you right," their mother said, and snapped their ears. "Hasn't mother told you that you would see bogies if you stayed out too late?"

For the two had gone on and on, that afternoon, gathering wild flowers, until it would have been dark, except that there was a slim moon and the early stars.

"But mother," one child said, "we did see a bogey—a woman in a long dark cloak."

"And a man came over the wall to meet her," the other child said—"a tall man. We could not see their faces, it was so dark, but the woman said, 'Take it, and go; and I wish I had never seen you. I hate you.'"

"Yes," said the child who had spoken first, a girl; "but when he had gone she cried, 'Come back!' and when he had come back she threw her arms around his neck."

"You better stay at home nights, after this," said the mother; and then she snapped their ears again, adding, "Next time the bogies will take you with them."

And because the woman was a stranger in the town, and as yet knew no one to gossip with, she never told any one what the children had said.

Norwegian Nils was a traveling clock tinker who kept in repair the clocks and watches of half a state. For twenty-five years he had been walking over the same route, and because he had neither kith nor kin of his own in this country he called the people for whom he worked his kindred. Twice each year he visited his friends, and the family with whom he elected to lodge over night counted itself lucky, for Nils was prized not only for his work but for his wit and wisdom, which last, people who had never seen salt water looked up to because its owner had come from over the sea.

The Norwegian loved John Barstow with the love of an old man for a younger. He had known his father and mother and home when the farmer had been a boy in it. To the farmer's house he came, one Saturday evening not long after the second robbery, and walking in announced his intention of spending Sunday there. He was a man who asked few questions for gossip's sake. "The traveling man who carries news is like the cuckoo, leaving an ill laid egg in a stranger's nest." But like the minister who went about and "heard things," the tinker acquired much information, and so, although in Barstow's house Nils never spoke of the farmer's loss, it is likely that he knew of it.

Saturday night brought rain, cold and dreary. "I don't care if it is May," said the farmer, Sunday night. "I'm cold and I'm going to have a fire. You don't care, do you, Estelle?" "No," said his wife, who sat by a window looking out into the wet twilight. "I'm cold, too," and she shivered. "Somebody is walking over my grave," she said, and half laughed at her own foolishness, even while her shoulders shook.

So the farmer brought in a great armful of dry wood; pine for kindlings and rock maple for body stock, and laid a fire in the brick fireplace in the sitting-room, and lighted it. Up to which drew his wife, the tinker, the hired man and hired woman, and a neighbor who had dropped in for an hour.

Last of all came the family cat, a big gray tiger cat, who twisted his supple body between the chairs, stretched himself before the blaze and lay down upon a rug.

"A cat and Whitsun night," said the Norwegian, by and by, when all had been still for a time, each thinking his or her own thoughts.

"In my country," he went on, "there is a story of cats and Whitsun night."

"What was it, tinker?" the hired woman asked.

But the tinker looked in the fire and said nothing, until the farmer said, "What was the story, Nils? Tell it to us."

Then the traveling man began: "It is told in my country, in Norway, that once there was a wealthy miller whose mill had twice been burned down on Whitsun night. To him there came, the next Whitsun, the mill having been rebuilt during the year, a traveling tailor, offering to keep watch. The tailor chalked a circle on the floor, wrote the Lord's prayer around it, and then standing inside the circle, waited. Just when the clock struck midnight a troop of cats rushed in and hung a great kettle of pitch over the fireplace. Again and again they tried to overturn the pitch into the fire, but every time the tailor frightened them away. And when the leader of the troop stealthily tried to draw the tailor out of his magic circle, he cut off her paw with his sharp knife.

"Then they all flew howling out into the night, and the next morning the miller saw with joy that his mill was standing whole and unharmed. But the miller's wife was cowering under the bedclothes, and when the tailor went to see her she held out to him her left hand, for him to shake, and tried to hide as best she could her right arm's bleeding stump."

"What a horrid story!" said the hired woman, when the tinker had finished. "I wish I hadn't asked you to tell it."

The farmer said nothing, for a little time, and when he did speak it was to ask the neighbor if his spring crops were likely to suffer from the wet.

But the farmer's wife, when the half circle of chairs was pushed back an hour later, and the tinker said goodnight, still kept her right hand hidden beneath her apron.

FARMER DOW'S WHIM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BLANCHE TRENNOR HEATH.

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WIDOW Wylie, coming down the road, stopped to admire Farmer Dow's new house on which he was bestowing some last loving touches.

"Looks about ready to move in to," she said.

"Jest about," he answered. "Slick as paint an' paper can make it. I calculate to furnish it next week."

"Do tell!" She surveyed it again curiously. "I s'pose that cubilow's safe? Seems kind o' gimcracky to me."

"Sho! That's 'cause you ain't used to seein' of 'em. That's the only cubilow anywhere round here," he said proudly.

"Yes, guess likely. Well, it's real harnsome, anyhow," as she turned to go. "I do hope Mis' Dow's to home, fur I've got an errand to her, an' I'm jest tuckered out, I declare! Dreadful warm fur the season, ain't it?"

"Tis, fur a fact," he assented. "Reg'lar Fourth-o'-July weather."

Some way down the road stood the old house, small and weather-stained, looking like a poor relation of its more pretentious neighbor. But it made a pretty picture under the green leaf-mist of the great weeping willow swaying gently before it. In the yard brilliant masses of peony and flower-de-luce were laughing up to the sun that blazed from a summer-blue sky. Farmer Dow was right. It was more like July than May.

Comely Widow Wylie, whose over-plumpness made itself felt in such weather, was glad to sit down in the pleasant kitchen. Mrs. Dow dusted off an already spotless chair, and placed it by the open window for her visitor. She herself was a wirey, black-eyed woman, who never seemed to mind heat or cold.

"Here's that basque-pattern I was tellin' you about," said Widow Wylie, when she had recovered her breath. "Ef you'll clear that stand I'll show you jest how it orter go."

For awhile the two women were deep in the mysteries of biases and darts. Then Widow Wylie straightened herself and began taking the pins out of her mouth.

"I see your husban' over to the new house," she said. "So he's calc'latin' to furnish next week?"

"He c'n suit himself!" The black eyes snapped.

"It's real harnsome," said the other. "Now, why can't ye get reconciled, Mis' Dow, an' humor his whim?"

Mrs. Dow stiffened. "I couldn't live in the house with that cubilow nohow. It's an eyesore to me."

"But you couldn't see it, once you was inside."

"Well, I sh'd alwers know 'twas there. I sh'd jest have it on my mind. Sech a silly-lookin' thing to stick on top, an' when he was

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plannin' the house fur to suit me, too!"

"Dear me," sighed the other woman, "I only wish I'd got somebody to plan fur me, cubilow or no cubilow!"

"Yes, but 'twas diff'unt with your husban'." He always wanted jest what you did."

"Well, no, not alwars," thoughtfully. "But when I found we were pullin' contrary ways, I used to kind o' give in, an' then he gen'ly would, too. That's the way with men-folks oftentimes. They're too stiff-necked to speak first, but they're ready t' be obligin' unbeknownst."

Mrs. Dow's lips set ominously. "It's no use a-talkin', Miss Wylie. He c'n make his choice. I'd rather live alone than with that cubilow—What, you ain't goin' a'ready?" as the visitor, with a glance at the clock, took up her bonnet. "Well, I'm much obliged for the basque. I'll baste it up an' bring it over this afternoon."

At dinner neither husband nor wife mentioned the new house. Only when he took up his hat, she said abruptly:

"You're calc'latin' t' furnish next week, 'Zekiel?"

"Yes, I be." He laid his hand on her arm. "Come over, Jerushy, an' let's see jest what we're a-goin' ter need."

"Take off your cubilow, an' I will," she said. His hand dropped. "That cubilow's there t' stay," he said doggedly, slamming the door as he went out.

Her face darkened. In what a different mood they had planned the new house! She wished now they had been content with the little home where they had lived in peace and prosperity, with their children beside them.

It was after the children had gone away to homes of their own, that Farmer Dow thought of building a better house. "Now they're out in the world," he said to his wife, "their ideas'll grow bigger accordin'. An' I want ter put on a little more style ag'inst they come a-visitin' us. I c'n afford as handsome a house as the next man, I guess! An', Jerushy, I'm goin' t' build t' suit you, fur, arter all, a house concerns women-folks most."

Mrs. Dow was greatly pleased by this deference to her wishes. The plan and site were selected, and work went on for awhile to their mutual satisfaction.

But one evil day Farmer Dow, visiting the remote country-town, saw the cupola on Judge Graham's new residence. Forthwith his mind was made up. There should be a "cubilow" on his house too.

Unfortunately his wife did not see the "cubilow" with his eyes. She opposed it strenuously, claiming the right of veto on the ground that the house had been designed to suit her. On the other hand, he insisted that this did not affect any additions he might see fit to make to please his own fancy. Words ran high, and soon there was a quarrel which grew faster than the house.

Their wills were at a deadlock over this whim of his. The husband said he would as soon tear down the house as remove the "cubilow"; the wife declared that while the "cubilow" stayed she would have nothing to do with the house. What had begun as a proof of affection remained a monument of strife, and the neighborhood wondered how it would all end.

After dinner Mrs. Dow took her sewing and went to pay a visit to Widow Wylie, who lived with her sister, Mrs. Hatch. She found them busy with their spring "making-over."

"Folks gets sick o' their winter clothes in sech weather," remarked Mrs. Dow. "An' I hain't got a thing fit to be seen till this is done," holding up the basque. "What trimmin' would you put on it, Mis' Wylie?"

"Do" know's I sh'd put on anything. Ann Mari' Baker has jest got her patterns in, an' she says they ain't wearin' hardly any trimmin'."

"Well, I'm ruther glad," said Mrs. Dow, whose tastes were not of an elaborate kind. "Trimmin's sort o' fussy-lookin', anyhow."

The three women sat sewing and talking when Mr. Hatch came in. His wife glanced at the clock.

"What brings you home so early, Father?"

"We're a-goin' t' have some weather," he answered, "an' pooty quick too. I calc'lated this hot spell'd end that way."

"Is't a thunder-storm, think?" asked Mrs. Dow.

"Yes, an' mebby somethin' worse. Seems ter me like one o' them cyclones they tell about."

Mrs. Dow rose and looked out of the window. "My! ain't it galey—lookin'! I better be a-goin' right off."

"Can't ye stay till it's over?" urged Mrs. Hatch. "Them things don't gen'ly last very long."

"No, I guess not. 'Zekiel'll want his supper."

"You look out for him jest the same then, Mis' Dow, spite o' the cubilow?" said Mr. Hatch jokingly.

"Why, you don't s'pose I'd let him go hungry so long's we was under the same roof?" she retorted. "Ef he's a mind ter move out, that's diff'unt."

"Land! ter hear you talk, Mis' Dow!" expostulated Mrs. Hatch. "O' course you wouldn't let her husban' live alone by himself, cubilow or no cubilow. How'd you feel ef anything was t' happen ter him?"

To this Mrs. Dow made no reply. Hastily tying on her bonnet, she set off for home, running a race with the gale.

Just as she reached the house the storm broke in a furious gust, before which half of the great willow went down with a crash. Then came the rain and lightning, and after that one incessant blaze and roar.

Mrs. Dow could not help worrying a little as she went about her preparations for supper. And the worry grew with every minute. She was not a timid woman, but this was such a terrible storm! She could not remember another like it. What made 'Zekiel late? Was he safe at "The Corner," or had he been caught somewhere on the road? She thought of Mrs. Hatch's words. How would she feel if anything happened to him?

During a lull she went to the window and looked out, but turned away uneasily at sight of the broken branches and uprooted trees. She went back to the stove, and mechanically looked at the ham and biscuits, her mind full of growing trouble. She was heart-sick and conscience-stricken. What did she care about the cubilow? If only they could be happy and united as before their foolish quarrel! He might have his whim and welcome.

Scarcely knowing what she did, she began to set the table. Supper was ready—"Zekiel's supper. But where was 'Zekiel? She looked at the two plates facing each other, and then, dropping into the chair opposite his, threw her apron over her head, and sobbed aloud.

While she sat rocking herself wretchedly, there was a tramping at the door. Running to open it, she saw two of the neighbors carry-

ing her husband between them.

"Oh, 'Zekiel!" she cried, her mind still absorbed with the one subject, "you may have the cubilow for all me!"

"Why, Mis' Dow," interrupted Amos Perry, "the cubilow's blowed down. That's what hurt yer husban'."

Perry explained that on their way home, they had all three taken refuge in the new house. When the storm slackened they started again, but just then a tremendous gust tore off the cupola, striking Dow senseless.

As they laid him on the bed the injured man regained consciousness. He refused to have a doctor called, declaring he could worry through by himself, so the two neighbors went away, believing that the worst was over.

But his wife's anxiety was not so easily allayed. She sat beside him, watching the rugged face on the pillow. It seemed suddenly to look worn and gray. Leaning over him, she gently touched the hand that lay on the coverlet. He opened his eyes and smiled.

"Well, Jerushy," he said, "the Lord's took things into his own hands. You won't be pestered no more with that cubilow."

"Oh, 'Zekiel," she cried, "I don't mind the cubilow one bit now. I'd just as soon you put it up ag'in te-morrer."

"No," he said. "I calc'late we've had a clear showin'. I sha'n't never put it up ag'n. An', Jerushy," after a pause, "any time you'd a' give in, I would."

"An' any time you'd a' give in, I would," 'Zekiel, she answered. He chuckled feebly.

"Well, then, ain't we a pair o' big fools?" "Zekiel Dow, don't you be imperdunt!" she rebuked him with a tremulous smile.

His fingers closed around the hand which was stroking his. "An' next week we'll go buy the furnichur' together," he said.

How to Cross the Ocean Cheaply and Comfortably.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ROBABLY more Americans will go to Europe this summer than ever before in the same length of time. Many of these travelers will be so fortunate, so far as this world's goods are concerned, as not to need to reckon the expenses of the trip very closely. Many others there are, though, who can hope to go across the Atlantic only as a result of strict economy. They have been saving up for this journey for a long time, and each dollar which they can properly save from the expenses of the journey means just so much farther that they can go and just so much longer that they can stay.

I do not think there will be many tourists who will be more unfamiliar with the details of ocean travel than I was the first time I crossed the Atlantic. I did not have very much money to go with, and I wanted to make what I did have go as far as it could. Things which I did might not be pleasant or desirable for other travelers to do. They may serve as hints to be copied or suggest things to be avoided.

This year will probably see special rates in steamer fares, although at the time I write it looks as if the drafting of so many steamers into the South African war service would limit the accommodations for crossing the Atlantic to a number which may cause rates to be kept up. As a general thing regular first cabin passage averages about \$100 each way. In some cases it may be as low as \$75, and it goes to almost any figure above \$100 for special accommodations on the great New York steamers. I have crossed twice on medium sized boats, of one of the oldest lines sailing from Boston, and both times I went in the second cabin. I think if I were to go again, and did not have a great deal more money than I had before, I should still go in the same way.

The term "second cabin" explains itself. Passengers who avail themselves of this cheaper rate do not have the privileges of the first cabin, with its larger and more elaborately furnished dining-saloon, smoking room and other accessories. The second cabin is large enough, though, and fairly comfortable. Its bill of fare is much less elaborate, but the food is good and generously served. Americans who are not used to English ways of living find the fourth meal a novelty. This is a simple supper, served at nine o'clock in the evening.

The greatest disadvantage in going in the second cabin is that all of the staterooms of that class—at least on the line by which I have crossed—contain four berths. If one is going alone this means he must expect to have three strangers as room mates—in a very small room, too—for ten days. On the other hand if a party of four can be made up it is possible, unless passage is taken at the very last day, to secure a stateroom for the party. It does not follow, either, that room mates will be disagreeable, just because they are strangers. A friend and I crossed together. The two young men who were given the berths in our stateroom proved very congenial company.

An average second cabin rate of fare is \$35 one way, or \$65 for a round trip. The difference in the cost of the ticket between that and first class means a great deal in the way of sight seeing abroad.

Crossing in the second cabin means being restricted from certain parts of the deck reserved for first cabin passengers, but this matters very little. There will be room enough at any rate. There will be plenty of room to sit out on deck if the weather is pleasant, and a clear passage to walk round and round on the main deck for exercise or pleasure. So many times around the deck make a mile. The officers on every steamer will know the number for that particular boat, so it is easy to gauge one's exercise.

The expense of going on the large, fast boats is somewhat more than on the smaller and slower ones. If one has only a short vacation, and wishes to devote every possible moment of time to the Exposition or to sight seeing elsewhere, it may be an object to go on one of the boats which reduce the time of the trip to six days. My own preference is for the slow boats. A ten days' voyage across the Atlantic is the most delightfully restful experience I have ever had. There are many Americans, especially of the class who will care to go to Europe, who need the rest of the vacation quite as much as

HERE IS HEALTH FREE



These Four Bottles

Represent a **New** system of medical treatment for the **weak**, and those suffering from **wasting** diseases, or inflammatory conditions of **nose, throat and lungs**.

The treatment is **free**. You have only to write to obtain it.

Its efficacy is explained as simply as possible, below:

By the system devised by Dr. T. A. Slocum, the specialist in pulmonary and kindred diseases, the needs of the sick body can be condensed into treatment by his four distinct preparations.

Whatever your disease, **one or more** of these four medicines will be of great benefit to you.

According to the exigencies of your case, fully explained in the treatise given free with the free medicine, you may take **one**, or any **two**, or **three**, or **all four**, in combination.

A cure is **certain** if the simple directions are carefully followed.

The medicines are especially adapted for those who suffer from weak lungs, coughs, sore throat, catarrh, grip, consumption, and other pulmonary troubles.

But they are also of wonderful efficacy in the building up of **weak systems**, in purifying the blood, **making flesh**, and restoring to weak, sallow people rich and healthy constitutions and complexions.

Female troubles and delicate children's ailments are speedily relieved.

The basis of the entire **Slocum System** is a flesh-building, nerve and tissue-renewing **food**.

Every sick person needs **strength**. This food gives it.

Many people get the complete system for the sake of the **Food**, which they themselves need, and give away the other three preparations to their friends.

The second article is a **Tonic**. It is good for weak, thin, dyspeptic, nervous people. For those who have no appetite, who need bracing up.

Thousands take only the Food and the Tonic.

The third preparation is a medicinal healing **Jelly**, in a patent collapsible tube. It cures catarrh. It heals all irritation of the nose, throat and mucous membrane. It gives immediate relief. It is also a dainty application for sore lips, sunburn, rough skin, etc.

Perhaps a million people need this jelly without any of the other articles.

The fourth article is an expectorant and cough cure. The most expensive cough cure (to make) on the market. The only one that can positively be relied upon. Contains no dangerous drugs, and is absolutely safe for children. Goes to the very root of the trouble, and not merely alleviates, but **cures**.

The four together form a panoply of **strength** against disease in whatever shape it may attack you.

THE FREE OFFER.

To obtain these four **FREE** invaluable preparations, illustrated above, all you have to do is to write, mentioning COMFORT, in which you read this article, to **DR. T. A. SLOCUM, Laboratories, 88 and 98 Pine Street, New York**, giving your name and full address. The **free medicine** will then be sent you, in the hope that if it does you good, you will recommend it to your friends.

They need its opportunities for sight seeing.

Take plenty of good warm wraps—old ones, so that you will not be afraid of wrinkling them or of getting them wet with salt water. You will need a thick over coat or a thick shawl in crossing even in midsummer, and if you want to get the real good out of the voyage—long days and evenings of sitting or lying out on deck, where every breath is filling the system with air so fresh and bracing that its like can be found nowhere on land—take along some kind of a steamer rug. This does not mean that you need buy one of the beautiful plaids which you see in the shop windows for \$10 or more. A heavy carriage robe will do, an army or camp blanket, or best of all, a new horse blanket—one of the big square ones with no leather straps on it. This is big and warm, and will be a thing of joy through the whole voyage. You will wrap it around you when you sit in your chair, you will spread it on the deck to lie on, or for a whist party to camp down on, and you will wrap it around you, and possibly some one else—it is quite big enough for two—when you sit out on the deck in the evening.

Some one may say, "I don't want to be bothered with all that stuff when I get across." That is very true; you don't, and you needn't be. The purser of your boat can direct you to some place in nearly every port where, by the payment of a small charge, such articles can be stored against your return voyage. If he cannot, march directly to some pawn shop with them—you will find pawn shops enough in every sea port—and "shove them up the spout." Be sure you do not lose your pawn tickets, and then, when you are ready to return, redeem your wraps. A good airing the first day out will be all the care they need. The commission, which you will have to pay the pawnbroker, usury though it will be, will be a small charge compared with the comfort which the wraps will be to you on shipboard.

In writing the above I have gone on the supposition that you will take passage for your return from the same port at which you landed.

If not you can almost always arrange to have a package of such nature as your luggage, forwarded to you from one city to another. Quite likely it will come by mail, or, as they say in England, "by parcel post." The English arrangements of this nature are very complete and convenient. I remember once I had a large leather valise full of clothing brought to me in London by a friend, but had to leave the city before he arrived. I left orders to have the valise forwarded to me at a town more than a hundred miles away. I was greatly surprised to receive it by post, with a stamp attached. I forget just what it cost, but remember it was less than a quarter of American money.

Near the beginning of this article I said, in writing of tourists who wish to practice economy—

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.)

St. Vitus Dance. One bottle Dr. M.M. Feunier's Specifics. By mail. Send for Circular, Fredonia, N.Y.

Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta, Maine.

BOYS AND GIRLS

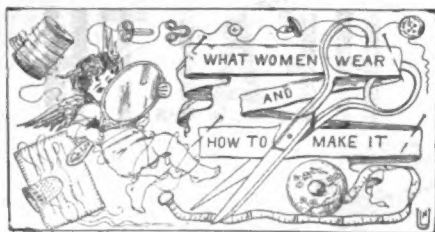
Watches, Cameras, Sporting Goods, Jewelry, etc., given away for selling 18 packages of Excelsior Bluing at 10c. We ask no money. Send your name and address and get outfit and premium list with instructions postpaid. When you sell the Bluing send us the money and select your premium. We Trust You. This is an honest offer. Write for outfit today.

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MIXED PAINTS 45c.

Ready Mixed Paints, all colors. Guaranteed highest grade made at 45 cents and up per gallon. For our handsome color card, full particulars and our easy pay-after-received terms, CUT THIS AD. OUT and send to

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

A

ALTHOUGH fashion demands tight dresses it does not imply exuberant rotundities, either in regard to corset or skirt. The idea is to be harmonious in form, elegant in lines, fine in outline and devoid of exaggeration. Skirts are still very long, especially for evening wear. Skirts of tailor gowns intended for morning wear, are less long and still not sufficiently short to give an awkward appearance. Pleated skirts are worn to a large extent, giving place, however, to those of slim, soft materials, gathered all around the waist. A stylish skirt of soft nun's veiling in dark blue has the back arranged in a number of side pleats extending across the back and hips, leaving the front plain.

Some of the new sleeves are fascinating. Elbow lengths are in great vogue; relegated, however, to the fortunate ones who possess pretty round white arms. The large majority of smart mid-summer frocks have the elbow sleeve, while it is safe to say the remainder show the short sleeve finished with the under sleeve.

As the days go by the tendency to return to the style of Louis XVI. period appears to be on the increase and some very fascinating costumes are the outcome of study of old paintings of that day. A chic gown being worn at Newport is in bright beige cloth, or what is more commonly known now as Khaki cloth. The corslet and bottom of the skirt are in velvet exactly matching in color, ornamented in the richest fashion with flowers embroidered in openwork, showing the white ground through. The front of the corsage opens over a waistcoat of white guipure and is laced with flame red corded cord, the ends of which hang below the waist.

Nothing is daintier than a tunic of lace or any sheer, soft stuff coming out beneath a short bolero of velvet or embroidered satin. In the way of lace, Chantilly holds first rank, its patterns are so fine and delicate. Flowers of Chantilly or other patterns are often encrusted on Duxeuil lace which is itself made up over pink mousseline de soie.

A very Frenchy tailored gown just over, is built of blue cloth, very light in weight, the entire costume brightened by knowing touches of rich gold and white braid, showing especially on the waistcoat displayed below the jaunty bolero, the sleeves of which end at the elbow in bell-shape, and provided with a deep



cuff rolling back, trimmed lavishly with the braid. The fore arm is covered with an under-sleeve of white nun's veiling, gathered quaintly into a narrow wrist-band trimmed with braid. The whole effect is most attractive.

At present there is a decided rage for jewels, both mock and genuine, and in these days one must be very clever to be able to detect the difference. Never have rings been worn in such profusion. It is a mystery how one hand can carry the number of rings one sees worn. As many rings as possible are crowded on every finger of both hands, with an effect of dazzling splendor, if it is somewhat barbaric. Indeed, to such an extent has the fad grown, women are appearing in many public places absolutely gloveless, excepting, of course, in the carriage, when large gloves are worn, loose enough not to interfere with the jewels. One sees long ropes of pearls about the throats of our best dressed women and it is a matter of speculation how many of these beautiful gems are real. Pearls are now worn as commonly as coral, and of course it is only reasonable to suppose the greater number of them are composition, although even they are now so beautifully made as to defy detection without filing the stone, and cost a pretty penny. All this

decoration goes to heighten the air of elegance of the up-to-date woman.

An easily adjusted belt is wide at the back and narrow in front, where it is fastened by running narrow ribbon through two metal rings and tying in a bow. Among the newest things in ties are those made from silk bandana handkerchiefs, the handsomest being those with a black center and broad border of white.

One of the features of present correct dressing is the long-waisted appearance at the front of the figure. Women generally are not careful enough in putting on their clothes to push them well down. Good corsets have a large hook which is intended to hold the underclothes in place and if one is careful to push the skirt band down and then bring your outside fancy belt down to follow this line the effect is much improved. With shirt-waists it is a pretty fashion to have a narrow belt of the material hemmed or stitched in rows; they should not be more than an inch and a half wide and should be put on to give a long-waisted effect.

The fancy for wearing black skirts with all manner of bodices is no longer considered the best form; the color of the skirt should harmonize as much as possible with the waist. An excellent plan is to have at least two waists to go with the skirt, holding forth the same colors, one much more dressy than the other, so as to provide for all occasions.

Very charming indeed, are the bodices made of tucked taffeta; the tucks are small as can be possibly made and as close together, the silk cut in bias pieces so that at each hem the tucks meet in points. These waists are tight-fitting, with a French back, and have each seam outlined with a tiny stitched strap or fancy silk braid. A lovely one of corded white taffeta in this style, has a deep yoke collar of tan tinted panne, bordered with a "feather" pattern applique in which gold thread and white silk combinerichly. The seams are covered with the narrowest of gold and white silk braid, and there is a soft vest of pale blue panne set off with gold cord and the smallest of small white enamel buttons rimmed in gold; the same buttons fasten the blue velvet cuff at the wrist by means of tiny silk loops at the opposite side.

Dainty collars of embroidered batiste in tan or pure white are worn with tailor gowns most effectively. Etons of shirt's pink cloth are smartly worn with skirts of white serge and shirts of white linen or taffeta. Stitched silk hats take the place of the severe sailor. One and all hats of the least severity of style have their edges softened by a veil draped along the brim, looking as though the wearer had just thrown it back, but in reality securely pinned in place so as not to be blown about. Two veils and even three are worn at the same time; the first, next the skin, of thinnest pink chiffon; and over this one of dotted net, the topmost one of black or brown chiffon, as the case may be.

There is a strong inclination toward the return of the one-time idol, the white cotton petticoat in all its daintiness of lace and embroidery. The sight of a fresh white underskirt is a real relief after the avalanche of color we have been doomed to for so long.

A pretty and useful hat is made of natural tinted straw, in shape very much like a sailor, having a wide band of black velvet ribbon about the crown, and a large bow of the same directly on top, the loops extending each side the width of the brim. It is a hat to be worn with almost any gown and will be found very serviceable.

Smart hats are all showing the high crown, rather large crowns too, and square at the top. A hat of this shape is made of black chiffon closely shirred and having for its sole ornament a huge bow of black velvet having a handsome buckle in the center. A similar hat is trimmed with large choux of black and white tulle.

A dainty bit of millinery is small and tipped over the face, the brim composed of rolls of tulle draped over with fancy straw, very soft and pliable. The crown is made of small pink roses crushed tight together, the finishing touch being given by the odd-looking rosette of black velvet placed directly on top of the crown.

To the girl who is clever at arranging her own dress accessories, the parasols of this season are an incentive for showing her capability.

If she can paint on silk, let her paint on silk, let her paint on silk in plain silk of a light yellow tint and paint on it large sprays of pink poppies and their foliage. This makes a lovely parasol and one that would cost a great deal to buy. Of course the flowers can be varied to suit the taste of the individual. Roses are lovely but most difficult to paint with success. Another effective parasol can be made from a plain silk covered frame by an application of pieces of lace, placed at regular intervals, or sharp pointed

can outline the edge.

A novel and rather pretty finish for a ribbon stock, is to put the ribbon around the neck in the usual way, bring the ends to the front and there fasten them with a gold or gilt harness buckle of the small size. The buckle is fastened to one end of the ribbon, the other end being put through the buckle and fastened with a slide or pinned, just as you would a ribbon belt. This mode of fastening is only pretty for a plain shirt worn with a tailor suit or skirt, not for a fancy silk bodice. The top of the ribbon looks better if finished with a narrow lingerie collar.

Such dainty collars, neckties, and scarfs of all descriptions as are exhibited in this spring's novelties, many of them very expensive, but fortunately an equal number that cost surprisingly little money! The shaped collar with points behind the ears can now be bought in all the different sizes, of silk, satin, or velvet, in tucks or folds, with rows of machine stitching and with lace insertion. These are finished with a little turn-over edge of lace, a bias fold of velvet of some other color than the collar, or with bands of narrow black velvet ribbon, with little bows that are fastened with jeweled buckles. Every silk or satin waist has two or three collars to wear with it, and there are a number of different shapes. In neckties there are the long ties of the polka-dotted velvet, two inches wide, long enough to tie twice around the neck and with ends finished with silk fringe or tassels. Long silk ties have the band that goes around the neck stitched, and the ends left loose, to be tied at the throat with a small bow and long ends. Taffeta ribbon ties, two or three inches wide, are tied in a bow knot at the throat and again in another bow at the bust, with the ends from the second bow left long enough to reach the belt. All these are very attractive and will make this season's waists look prettier than ever.

Lace ties are shaped like lace barbes worn by our grandmothers, or in straight pieces of different widths. They are supposed to go twice around the neck and tie in front with a bow, or may be tied like the chiffon tie, in what is called the La Valliere knot—like a sailor's knot but not pulled up to the throat. These lace ties are not a bad investment for they will cleanse and wash and are a great addition to any waist, but they will soon wear out if they are constantly being tied in a tight bow, and it is really a better plan to make a bow and sew it together, fastening one end over every time it is put on.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE, \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 E. Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

SUMMER TIME

brings warm weather and cool dresses for ladies and young women. This year low neck and short sleeves will be the fashion, also necklaces of bead and pearl. We are ready in advance to furnish our customers and subscribers with our new Exposition Necklace, more popular than the Cyano chains were ever. We can send one, carefully packed, with a three months' subscription to COMFORT for 12c. Send soon and be in style. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME. \$1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. R. W. HUTTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.

Tailor Made Suit \$5.98

Latest Style for Spring and Summer of 1900.
FINE ALL WOOL The suit will be made to measure by skilled tailors from Evans best all wool ALBERT CLOTH, famous for its rich bloom and beautiful weave. The jacket is made in new single breasted style, beautifully lined with fine imported silk, elegantly silk faced and superbly trimmed with pure ashu ribbon. The skirt is cut full with a high and well interlined, has latest style back, nobly welled seams, hangs graceful and stylish. Guaranteed strictly tailor made and worth fully \$10.00. Choice of black and blue colors. **SEND THIS ADV.** free a large sample of the cloth and our big catalog containing many other rare bargains in suits from \$5 to \$20, and of jackets, capes and skirts all at wholesale prices. We make all grades and styles of ladies' garments and sell at lowest wholesale factory prices. Write today.
LADIES' SUITS FREE We give free and furnish a suit to wear while you are earning one. It is a great chance to get a suit free. Send one 2-cent stamp to help pay mailing charges for complete outfit with which you can easily earn a suit. Write today.
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Please mention COMFORT when you write.

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WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any hair at from 65c to \$3.25, the equal of switches that retail at \$2.00 to \$8.00.
OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us, inclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair, and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.
OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS:
2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, 65c; short stem, 90c; 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, \$1.25; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, \$1.50; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, \$2.25; 3-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, \$3.25. **WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK** the highest grade on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.** (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. MISS MODELLER MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

LADIES I Make Big Wages —AT HOME— and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay \$18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars all sending 2c. stamp. **MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Boston Harbor, Mich.**

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Fluttering, palpitation, or skipping beats (always due to weak or diseased heart); shortness of breath from going upstairs, walking, etc.; tenderness, numbness or pain in left side, arm or under shoulder blade; fainting spells, dizziness, hungry or weak spells; spots before the eyes; sudden starting in sleep, dreaming, nightmare;

Heart Disease

choking sensation in throat; oppressed feeling in chest; cold hands and feet; painful to lie on left side; dropsy; swelling of the feet or ankles (one of the surest signs); neuralgia around the heart; sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.

They will restore you to health and strength as they have hundreds of other men and women.

FREE To prove how absolutely I believe in them, to prove that they will do exactly what I say, I will send a box free to any name and address sent me. One trial will do more to convince you than any amount of talk. It will cost you nothing, and may save your life. Send for a trial box and enclose stamp for postage.

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June. Roses, brides, strawberries, presidential conventions, Paris Exposition, journeys up and down, all that makes "perfect days"—June.

These are the days when Dame Nature holds out her hand to the weary dwellers in the city and whispers "come." One of the most interesting items of a late statistical report was one that referred to the summer boarder in New Hampshire. It would seem that the old Granite State had been set up on edge for the delectation of the summer visitor. The statistics as to the amount of money he brought into the state and the improvements resulting from his presence furnished an interesting commentary on the growth of the vacation habit in America.

A bust of William H. Seward is to be presented to the territory of Alaska and placed in the capitol building at Sitka. It is a fitting tribute to the far-seeing statesmanship of the man who believed that the Pacific was to furnish our open door to a great Eastern trade. He seemed to look upon our future with a prophetic eye. He foresaw the importance to us of establishing trade with the Pacific islands and the Orient. With our canal project well under way that will shorten the Pacific route by thousands of miles, with vast possessions like Hawaii and the Philippines as resting places for our ships reach China and Japan, with the vast export of the Alaskan gold fields, with all this fulfillment of Seward's visions it is fitting to honor his memory. Alaska was long designated Seward's Folly and the nation's refrigerator, but the diplomatic and financial advisability of the purchase is no longer questioned by even the most captious.

A great New York daily has seen in the two national conventions an opportunity to teach civics in a practical manner. Fifty boys from the High Schools of Greater New York have been selected by means of competitive essays on some topic connected with the nomination and election of the President of the United States. Twenty-five of these lads are to be taken in a special car, under charge of reliable guides, to the Convention Hall at Philadelphia on the nineteenth of June. The remaining twenty-five will be taken to Kansas City on July the fourth. This is a commendable way to interest school boys in the manner of conducting our great nominating conventions. The political machinery that runs the great parties is intricate. It is safe to say that not more than half the voters of the land understand the method of calling and electing nominating conventions. They have been a part of our political affairs since the 30's. Before that time nominations were made by legislature, by popular demand or by small party caucuses, no definite plan being employed. The nominating convention is peculiar to America but the Constitution makes no mention of such a body nor was it intended or dreamed of in the minds of the founders of the nation.

We are said to be the greatest organizers in the world. Visitors from abroad are always impressed and frequently amused at the associations, clubs, societies, and what not that flourish in this home of the free. Every pretext from poetry to potatoes and from philanthropy to trifling is used to gather people together with a constitution, a president and dues. It remains for the American Hay Fever Association to claim the doubtful honor of being the only association in the world bound together by the common interest in a malady.

We have heard the expression "Come, let us reason together," and we know many associations formed on that basis—some indeed, on the basis of "smiling" together, but to send out the invitation "Come, let us sneeze together," is surely something new under the sun. Henry Ward Beecher was the first president of the Hay Fever Association, which used to meet in the White Mountains. This place was chosen as it was believed that the trouble that bound these people together could not penetrate there. They could discuss its terrors with other victims at an altitude far above the reach of the demon. It would certainly be rather amusing if an outsider could be allowed to read the "minutes" of this association. The return of grass that will become hay is the signal for the members of the association to fly to mountains and seashore.

There is no feature of Commencement week more interesting to the candid observer than the return to Alma Mater of the alumni. Sweet girl graduates are all more or less alike to the average observers—the young men are all secure in faith of ability to move the world to their liking. It is the alumni however who finally determine the worth of the years spent in study. They have used the weapons that education has placed in their hands and years have shown the worth or worthlessness of their preparation. They return to their school to live over again the joys of youth. They listen with pathetic attention or indifference to the orations. They know the wide gulf between theory and fact and as they hear the weighty problems of political and social economy treated as mere playthings for historical flourish they smile in kindly appreciation of the ways of youth. It is like a fleet of weather beaten storm tossed ships anchored near where some ships gay with bunting and glistening with paint are to be launched. The candid observer turns from the untried new to scan the old. What changes the years write on the faces of the alumni. But time writes no wrinkles in the heart and many a father or mother feels the years rolled up like a scroll as they listen to a son or daughter speaking from the very platform where years before they made their own "graduating oration." The June days sing no happier event among their roses than the Commencement Days.

One is struck by the frequency with which men who have attained success preach the gospel of work. The "strenuous life" is a phrase often upon people's lips. It would seem that there was a secret fear that the work of the world would be left undone unless a constant gospel of effort was preached and lived. Work for the sake of the working is a doctrine better fitted to a convict cell than to the serious consideration of a generation of strivers. Work was laid upon man primarily as a curse. He has said "evil be thou my good" and through long ages has trained himself to the point where it has become true that a man's work is the best expression of himself. In every case when it is not, it retains the old original reminder of a lost Eden and is a curse. The constant urging to effort is not necessary in most cases and when the warning is necessary it is generally useless. The great mass of Americans work too much. Many a man who has won a competence through his own efforts is really poorer in all that makes for the real value of life than the lowest salaried clerk in his employ. The capacity for enjoyment, for rest, for the calm quiet of spirit through which we learn to know our own inner nature, has been lost. "The strenuous life" has prolonged its effort until the strained nerves cannot relax. One day a snap comes and then the American malady of "overwork" claims another victim. The doctrine of "work" needs no preaching. The men who have it in them to succeed by work will do so, and any intellectual incentive furnished by such urging from those who have succeeded is unnecessary.

The trouble growing out of the charge that Senator Clark of Montana secured his seat by bribery of the legislature, and of the fact that the legislature of two states, Delaware and Pennsylvania failed to elect United States Senators, has had one logical result. The long demanded change in the method of electing United States Senators is to be brought before the people. The House has by an almost unanimous vote demanded an amendment to the Constitution providing that United States Senators shall be elected by popular vote and not by state legislatures. The method of election by the state legislatures grew out of the compromise in the Constitution made between the large and small states. To satisfy both in their demands that the state should be recognized as a unit and that the population of the state should also be considered, the legislative body was divided into houses. The upper house was designed to give to each state its full and sovereign authority in government, the small state being as important as its larger sister. To carry out the idea that the upper house represented states, the state legislatures were given the power to elect members of the upper house. We have long since outgrown the State Rights idea shown in this plan. There is now no fear that the states as states will lose their identity although component parts of a great nation. The most dignified of our legislative offices should be in the direct gift of the people themselves. There is no doubt that this amendment will meet popular approval for already the legislatures of thirty-three states have signified their approval of it. It is more than thirty years since the Constitution of the United States has been amended. The first ten amendments were made very early in our history and in a lump in order to satisfy a popular demand that individual right should be more definitely guaranteed by the Constitution. The new amendment has been long desired by all students of our political affairs.



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185 American Liberty March.....	Cook	236 Across the Bridge.....	Le Brun
191 Ancient's March—Two Step.....	Cook	27 Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten. Winter	
247 Artist's Life Waltzes.....	Strauss	27 Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana Mascagni	
191 Auld Lang Syne. Variation.....	Strauss	140 Beacon Light of Home.....	Estabrooke
187 Austrian Song. Op. 69.....	Pacher	134 Beautiful Moonlight. Duet.....	Glorer
215 Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive.....	Anderson	238 Bells of Seville.....	Il Jude
179 Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands.....	Strauss	162 Ben Bolt. Of "Trilby" fame.....	Kneass
227 Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes.....	Strauss	228 Blue Eyes.....	Elson
187 Bells of Cornville. Potpourri.....	Waltz	245 Boyhood Days. Chorus.....	Fritz
213 Black Hawk Waltz.....	Richards	200 Bridge, Tie. Words by Longfellow.....	Carter
257 Blue Bells of Scotland. Trans.....	Richards	192 Can You Swearheart. Keeps a Secret? Estabrooke	
221 Bluebird Echo Polka.....	Morrison	214 Childhood's Happy Hours.....	Dismore
199 Bidal March. From Lehengrin.....	Carter	138 Christmas Carol.....	Turner
145 Bidal March. From Lehengrin.....	Wagner	180 Come When the Soft Twilight Falls Schumann	
229 Bryan and Sewall March.....	Cerny	168 Count Breach of Promise. Cake walk. Black	
133 Cadences and Scales in All Keys.....	Stroh	92 Cow Bells. The Boyhood's Recollection Grimm	
1 Catherine Waltzes.....	Stroh	250 Darling I Shall Miss You.....	Cohen
255 Cavalleria Rusticana. Four hands. Mascagni		176 Darling Nellie Gray.....	Harby
237 Cherokee Roses Waltz. 4 hands.....	Richards	70 Dear Heart. We're Growing Old.....	Estabrooke
145 Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step.....	Notes	165 Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	
217 Cleveland's March.....	Wheeler	255 Dwelling with the Angels. Chorus. Turner	
81 Coming from the Races Galop.....	Coots, Jr.	50 Easter Eve. Sacred.....	Conrad
211 Corn Flower Waltzes.....	Ashton	220 Ever Sweet is Thy Memory.....	Hofstad
41 Crack Four March.....	Durkee	19 E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic.....	Eplett
123 Crystal Dew Waltz.....	Marcel	72 Ealing. Waltz song.....	Betta
235 Day Dawn Polka.....	Notes	182 Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
163 Dewey's Grand Triumphal March.....	Durkee	126 Far from the Hearthstone.....	Messer
117 Echoing Trumpets March.....	Durkee	152 Flag of Our Country. Patriotic.....	Matthot
91 Electric Light Galop.....	Robinson	156 Flag. The. Quartette.....	Fox
107 Estella. Blue de Ballet. Very fine.....	Stoddard	148 Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet.....	Deano
155 Evergreen Waltz.....	Durkee	148 Floasie. Waltz Song.....	Cohen
231 Faust. Selections.....	Lyman	138 For a Dream's Sake.....	Cohen
77 Fifth Nocturne.....	Lyman	36 For the Colors. Patriotic.....	Wilson
233 Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz.....	Lagoude	86 For You. We are Praying at Home.....	Estabrooke
147 Flower Song. Op. 38.....	Spindler	165 From our Home the Loved are Going.....	Ferry
97 Fresh Life.....	Watson	202 Give a Kiss to Me.....	Jewell
177 Frolic of the Frogs.....	Nutting	176 God Bless My Kind Old Mother.....	Iron
49 Full of Ginger. March Galop.....	Coy	204 Golden Moon.....	Glover
183 Golden Rain. Nocturne.....	Missad	198 Heart of My Heart.....	Robinson
147 Grand Commandery March—Two Step.....	Richards	184 I Can't Forget the Happy Past.....	Temple
185 Greeting of Spring. Op. 21.....	Jewell	248 In Shadowland.....	Pimatti
173 Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still.....	Slack	188 In the Starlight. Duet.....	Glorer
139 Home, Sweet Home. Transcription.....	Rosas	28 Jannita. Ballad.....	May
157 Impassioned Dream. Waltzes.....	Gottschalk	242 Jannita. Ballad.....	Croft
147 Maiden and Hobart March.....	Kuhn	196 Killarney.....	Rutledge
157 Last Hope. Meditation.....	Behr	132 Kiss me, but don't say goodbye.....	Aril
195 Leap Year. Schottische.....	Durkee	184 Kiss that bound my Heart to thine.....	Williams
253 Le Petit Bal. Polka Mazurka.....	Durkee	148 Lullaby. Duet.....	Hochstet
159 Lee's (Gen'l) On to Cuba! galop.....	Musie	148 Lullaby. Solo or Duet.....	Estabrooke
143 London March—Two Step.....	Badartewski	154 Little Voices at the Door.....	Danks
99 Maiden's Prayer.....	Mansfield	96 Lost Chord. The.....	Sullivan
45 March Winds Galop.....	Johnson	40 Love Ever Faithful.....	Bucaloss
240 Martha Selections.....	Krag	25 Lullaby. Do you think of me now? Estabrooke	
207 Melodious. Four hands.....	Heritt	236 Lullaby. Sacred.....	Granger
234 McKinley. Selections.....	Wely	112 Mamma's Sleeping in de Churchyard.....	Allen
55 Memorial Day March.....	Smith	30 Mission of a Rose. The. Song.....	Cover
131 Monastery Bells. Nocturne.....	Zaim	52 Mother's Cry. A. (Salvation Army).....	Adrianne
89 Morning Dew. Op. 18.....	Lich	72 Mother's Welcome at the Door.....	Estabrooke
61 Morning Star Waltz.....	Cook	222 Mused. Dialogue. Duet.....	Estabrooke
21 Music Box. The. Caprice.....	Blake	232 Must the Sweet Tie that binds.....	Estabrooke
137 My Love Polka.....	Blake	76 My Home in the Old Mill.....	O'Halloran
125 My Old Kentucky Home. Variations.....	Kullak	110 My Little Lost Irene.....	Danks
87 National Anthems of Eight Great Nations.....	Durkee	170 My Old Kentucky Home.....	Foster
175 National Songs of America.....	Durkee	216 Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber).....	Dismore
135 Nightingale's Trill, Op. 21.....	Durkee	60 Old Glory. National.....	Woods
161 Old Folks at Home. Transcription.....	Durkee	102 Old Sexton. The.....	Russell
171 Old Oaken Bucket. The. Variations.....	Durkee	104 On the Banks of the Beautiful River Estabrooke	
219 On the Wave Waltz.....	Durkee	80 On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad Robinson	
197 Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two step.....	Spencer	138 Out on the Lake. Solo or Duet.....	Ferry
245 Orvetta Waltz.....	Grepona	174 Parted from our Dear Ones.....	Keller
193 Over the Waves Waltz.....	Rosas	254 Picture of My Mother. The.....	Stelly
79 Please Do Waltz.....	Durkee	148 Poor Girl didn't know. Comic.....	Coole
193 Post and Peasant Overture (Suppe).....	Brunner	58 Precious Treasure. Song and Dance.....	Weiler
167 Red, White and Blue Forever. March.....	Missad	136 Queen. Sacred.....	Granger
143 Richmond March—two-step.....	Schumann	208 Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep.....	Chamindad
245 Rustle Waltz.....	Longe	142 Rosemonde.....	Guth
127 Rustling Leaves. Idylle.....	Missad	80 See Those Living Pictures.....	Adrianne
39 Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.....	Wiman	224 Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?.....	Dismore
149 Salem Witches March—Two-Step.....	Martin	184 The Sleeps among the Daisies.....	Dismore
189 Schubert's Serenade Transcription.....	Pudewski	124 Softly shine the Stars of Evening.....	Fritz
31 Song of the Voyager.....	Simons	210 Son's Return. The.....	Hulloh
22 Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade Dose		120 Storm at Sea. Descriptive.....	Denza
95 Spirit Lake Waltz.....	Reber	32 Sweet Long Ago. The.....	Estabrooke
151 Storm. The. Imitation of Nature.....	Reber	118 There's a Rainbow in the Clouds.....	Nutting
76 Storm Work.....	Broen	206 There's Sure to be a Way.....	Cohen
109 Sultan's Band March.....	Blake	158 Thinking of Home and Mother.....	Estabrooke
209 Sweet Long Ago Transcription.....	Wagner	116 'Tis True. Dear Heart. We're Fading.....	Turner
115 Tornado Galop.....	Ludovic	108 True to the Last.....	Adams
103 Triflet's Grand March. Op. 182.....	Cook	64 Vicar of Bray. The. Old English Song.....	Koppt
223 Trilby Echoes. Song with words.....	Richards	62 Your Mother's Love for You.....	Adrianne
193 Under the Double Eagle March.....	Blake	252 Warrior Bold.....	Stelly
129 Venetian Waltz.....	Staley	58 When the Roses are Blooming Again.....	Trayne
205 Village Parade Quickstep.....	Hove	86 When Winter Days Have Gone.....	Fondall
7 Visions of Light. Waltz.....	Stanley	188 Whistling Wife. The. Comic.....	de Lussard
203 Warblings at Eve.....	Bragg	212 Why am I Ever Watching.....	Barrier
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Moderato.

1. Long years a-go, when but a lad, I knew a lit-tle brown-eyed maid, Whose
2. A thread and pin-hook we would take, To catch the min-nows in the brook; A
3. To brown-eyed Nell, with ra-ven hair, Sweet ru-by lips and form di-vine, I

heart was al-ways light and glad; In child-hood we to-geth-er played; Some-times we'd climb the ma-ple tree, And look-ing down in-to the well, A
fl-er on the bank we'd make, And "Nell" the lit-tle fish would cook; The but-ter-flies we use to race, A-cross the mead-ow, thro' the dell; The
said the an-gels were less fair. She told me that she would be mine; There's some-thing sing-ing in my heart. A song more sweet than tongue can tell; We

CHORUS.
Tempo di valse.

ad lib.
boy and girl we there could see, Just like my-self and brown-eyed Nell. Brown-eyed Nell is so charming, her heart so gay, . . .
bum-ble-bees would give us chase, When I their hon-ey stole for Nell.
nev-er more in life will part, I love no one but brown-eyed Nell.

colla voce.
Al-ways lov-ing-ly smil-ing the clouds a-way; . . . Ev-ry bod-y her prais-es de-light

1st and 2d Verse. 3d Verse.
to tell. . . For she is so neat, so ro-sy and sweet, My brown-eyed Nell. Nell.
1st and 2d Verse. 3d Verse.
D.C. FINE.

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Early Singing in New England.

The old Puritans were a strange lot in some of their habits, and nothing can seem more ludicrous to the present generation than their method of congregational singing. For more than a century after the landing at Plymouth hymns were lined and then sung. Our present generation can hardly imagine the worthy dominion in the pulpit announcing the congregation would join in singing such a psalm and then the scene that would follow. On the announcement of the hymn the congregation arose and if there were a choir in the usual gallery in the rear of the church, turned with one accord and faced the singers, who generally sang to the notes of a bass viol for harmony. A deacon in the gallery arose with book in hand, and in nasally-twanged drawl read the words of the first line of the announced hymn. Then the viol scraped a note, the singers in the choir hummed in unison, and then choir and congregation sang the line. Thus it was carried on through the whole hymn, the deacon reading each succeeding line to the end, and the choir and people loudly singing in slow measure the words given.

Somewhere about 1725 there began to be a rebellion against this method of "lining psalms," which brought about a warfare famous in its day called the fight between "note and note," which continued unabated and with all the vigor of early

Puritanism in every New England settlement. Whether those engaged were singers or not, or even had musical education, mattered little, for all were partisans.

The only book of songs that was used by the earlier Pilgrims was the "Book of Psalms, Englished Both in Prose and Verse," published by Henry Atensworth at Amsterdam in 1612. The notes were diamond-shaped, which seems to have fitly symbolized angularity of both the music and the poetry; though these rude productions really had a ring and vigor to them, characteristic of everything Puritanical. The general rule was to sing a note of "Old Hundred" to a beating of the pulse, or about a third quicker than in modern time.

Gradually new and improved books crept into use in the colony and the later ones before 1700 are better printed and better collected than the book above referred to. In the earlier days it is doubtful if the stern customs of the Pilgrims allowed women to mingle their sweet voices with the sterner notes of the men in public worship. There is nothing to establish when the present custom of mixed choirs first came in vogue in New England.

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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



Soft shell crabs are a famous dish with epicures. Possibly a few words regarding crabs will be interesting to some who know little about them except that they are "mighty good eating." During the first year of her existence she puts off her shell several times. When she feels that she is to lose it, she gets into a hole in the sand, under some seaweed, and in a short time emerges again minus her shell, but covered with a thin fine skin. She is then what is called a soft-shelled crab, and is perfectly delicious.

The price for these crabs is from seventy-five cents to a dollar and a quarter a dozen, according to the season. They can be bought at the markets in the large cities, and are often shipped to the smaller towns. Of course this can be done with little difficulty, as they are shipped alive. They are packed in baskets in seaweed, and so get air, and enough food from the seaweed to keep them in good condition for several days.

To prepare a soft-shelled crab, take it in the hands and remove the seaweed that will cling to the claws. With a sharp vegetable knife raise the skin and remove the sand bag and then the lungs on either side. It is then dead. It isn't a pleasant operation to perform, but it is the only thing to be done and if done quickly is no more painful to the crab than to plunge it into hot water, as is done with lobsters. Prepare all the crabs in this way and lay them on a board; season with salt and pepper, roll in flour and dip in egg and then in crumbs and fry in deep fat. Be very careful to have each claw covered with the flour, egg and crumbs, and then the crab presents a very pretty appearance when nicely browned.

To serve, place in the center of a large platter a cut glass dish, which is to hold the sauce. Around this dish put a border of parsley or water cress and then place the crabs around that. This makes it an easy dish to serve, as everything is separate and can be served neatly. The sauce used is SAUCE TYRO-LIENNE.

To three-fourths cup mayonnaise dressing add one-half tablespoon each of chopped capers, parsley and pickle, and two tablespoons tomato puree.

Tomato puree, by the way, is simply canned tomato, which is stewed slowly for a long time until it is quite thick and then strained.

A few words about crumbs. Take the stale pieces of bread, ends of loaves, etc., and put in the oven. When hard enough to grate, do so, afterwards sifting the crumbs so that they will be uniform in size. Then place in a glass preserve jar and they will keep for weeks. Be careful, however, not to put on the cover of the jar or the crumbs will get moist and soon mouldy. Keep the top open, or with a piece of cheese cloth tied over it, to keep out the dust, but still to admit air to the crumbs. If coarse crumbs are desired, (called bread raspings) take the inside of a loaf of stale bread and break it up as fine as possible and put through a sieve.

When anything is to be dipped in crumbs, egg and crumbs again, dilute the egg with water. To one egg add two tablespoons cold water and mix thoroughly. This insures a smooth surface of egg and also makes the egg go about twice as far.

Now that fresh vegetables may be had by all, and as everyone uses salads to a large extent through the summer months, a few new combinations and suggestions for garnishing may be acceptable to the housewife who is always on the alert for something new, in the spring particularly, when appetites flag and it is hard to suit the fancy of the different members of the family. For those who can get the shade roe, the following recipe will be found delicious, and for those who cannot, cold cooked veal or chicken or lamb, chopped, will do very well as a substitute.

SHAD ROE AND CUCUMBER SALAD.

Boil the roe twenty-five minutes with a slice of onion, a small piece of bay leaf, three cloves and ten peppercorns. Cool and sprinkle with lemon juice or vinegar and cut in small pieces. Slice a cucumber very thin, and then "pink" the edges of each slice, as shown in our illustration. This is done by laying the slice on a board and going around the edges with a three-tined steel fork, which cuts the little slits and so varies the edge of the slice. To serve, pile the roe in the center of the dish, place the

slices of cucumber on top, pour over all some French dressing and garnish edge of dish with small lettuce leaves. It presents a better appearance served in this way than when the cucumber is mixed in with the roe.

STUFFED CUCUMBER SALAD.

Pare cucumber and cut lengthwise in halves; remove seeds and let the shell chill in ice water for an hour. Chop together the solid part of a peeled and seeded tomato, a slice of new onion, a stalk of celery and a sprig of parsley; mix with Mayonnaise or boiled dressing and fill the halves of the cucumber, after it has been carefully dried. Serve in lettuce leaves.

It often happens that a small quantity of vegetables are left from dinner; there isn't enough to serve again, and yet nothing must be wasted. In a case of this kind, if one has a cup of string beans left from one dinner, some peas, or beets left from the day before, take these, and mix thoroughly with French dressing; arrange in a pile in the center of a platter, and around the edge place sliced fresh tomatoes, or cucumber. If one has three or four cold boiled potatoes, make a salad of them by adding some chopped onion and mixing with French dressing, and place this around the edge of platter, with a sprig or two of parsley or nasturtium leaves, instead of the tomato or cucumber.

Cold fish of almost any kind makes a nice salad, served usually with French dressing. A little flaked fish well mixed with dressing, served with a border of quartered hard boiled eggs, the whole set off by a row of crisp lettuce leaves, makes an attractive dish both to the eye and the palate, and is about as simple a dish as can be prepared.

The salad dressings most in use are the French dressing and mayonnaise, and, although we have often given recipes for these before, we will give them again, also one for boiled dressing, as there are some who do not care for oil but prefer the melted butter.

FRENCH DRESSING.

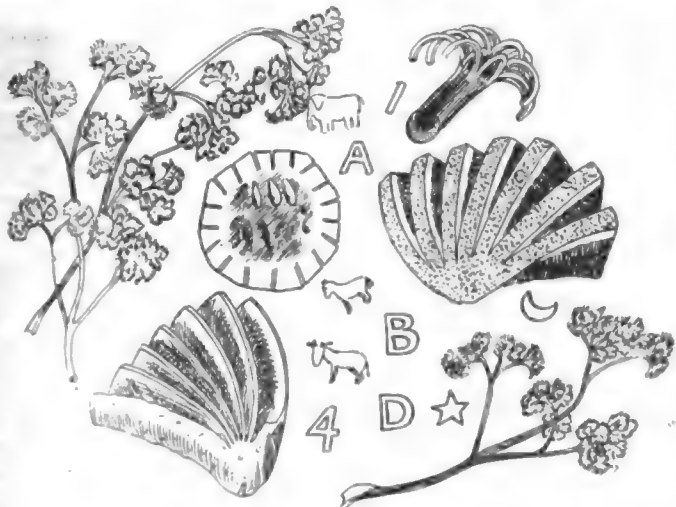
One-half teaspoon salt, one-fourth teaspoon pepper or a little paprika, two to six tablespoons vinegar and six tablespoons oil.

MAYONNAISE DRESSING.

Yolks of two raw eggs; one pint olive oil; two tablespoons vinegar; two tablespoons lemon juice; one-half teaspoon salt; few grains paprika, and, if desired, one teaspoon each of mustard and powdered sugar.

Have the utensils and ingredients thoroughly chilled, the egg perfectly fresh, and there will be no difficulty in making a perfectly smooth dressing. Beat the yolks with a small wooden spoon, add the condiments and stir; then add one teaspoon vinegar, and when well mixed with the other ingredients, add the oil, at first drop by drop. When mixture thickens, the oil may be added faster. If too thick, add a little of the lemon juice, then more oil; then a little vinegar and more oil until all the ingredients are used. It is much easier if two people can make the dressing, one doing the stirring while the other slowly pours in the oil.

Now a word about the best way for keeping lettuce and parsley, in the refrigerator. Make some cheese cloth bags for just this purpose. Wash lettuce, pull apart, and then place in the bag and lay on ice. Parsley may be kept for a week, in this way, by simply sprinkling with fresh cold water once a day. If kept in water it gets heavy and loses its fresh, delicate green, and in a day or two the water has a very unpleasant odor. If kept in the ice box in a bag, and sprinkled every day, it retains its fresh color and odor for at least a week, if freshly picked at first.



GARNISHES.

Our illustration shows sprays of parsley; curled celery, which we have often described; pinked cucumber; fans made from lemon and pickle, also described sometime ago. The letters, figures and animals shown, are the little paste garnishes which are used in clear soups, in place of rice, and may be bought by the package. They are added to the soup ten minutes before it is served, which gives them time to swell a little and become soft, which they do without losing their shape.

A Self-Supporting Woman's Open Letter.

I have had so many letters from friends who heard I had gone into business, asking me to tell them all about it, that I thought it would be best to write you and have you print my answer so that all could see it. One day, in the Christian Courier I saw the advertisement of the Baird Manufacturing Co., 215 Baird Bldg., Pittsburg, Pa., saying they wanted agents for their Flavoring Powders. I first wrote the editor of the paper asking him if they were reliable, and he said they were one of the largest manufacturers in the country. So I wrote them and they started me in business with samples and things. That was two months ago, and I had never done such work before. To-day I am out of debt, living better than I've lived for a long time and I have some money in the bank. I can make from \$3.00 to \$5.00 a day. I've got my customers so now that I don't have to do any canvassing. They just send and ask for what they want. These flavoring powders are both cheaper and better than the old-style liquid extracts, and there is no trouble to place from one to eight flavors in each house you visit. I make this letter public in the hope that all who must earn their living, and those who want to make extra money, will do as I have done and get employment with this firm.

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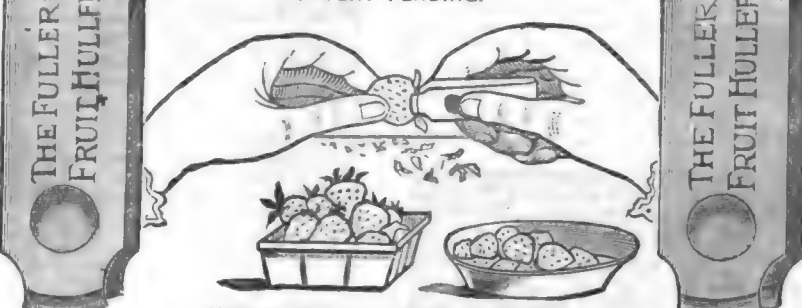


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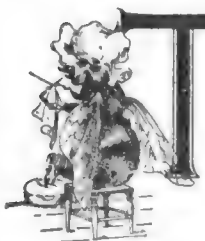
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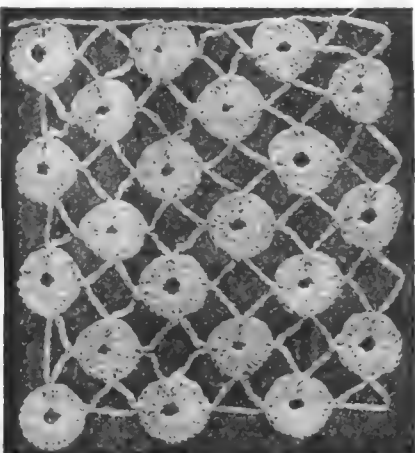
WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HERE must be a revival of the use of crochet trimming, for we have numberless inquiries for directions for making new designs in edging and insertion. For the benefit of those of our readers who are interested in this line of fancy work, we give some designs which we

hope will prove to be new.

Crochet edging is very serviceable for children's underclothes, also for aprons, and is much daintier than the Hamburg edge or lace that could be bought for a small amount of money. Of course the thread is all the expense there is to the crochet edge, and the time used in the making of same would not be put to any other use, probably, as this sort of work is usually done when one has visitors who come, with their fancy work, to spend a few hours, or else in the evening when one doesn't care to sit quite idle, but yet wants to do almost nothing.



ing, and with a simple pattern to follow, crochet work is simple and restful.

Crochet edge in fine, filmy pattern, is also much used in the chamber, for the toilet and dressing table covers, and, if liked, for the ends of pillow slips, though usually women like the hem-stitching only on pillow slips and sheets.

For our first illustration, use No. 30 Coat's thread.

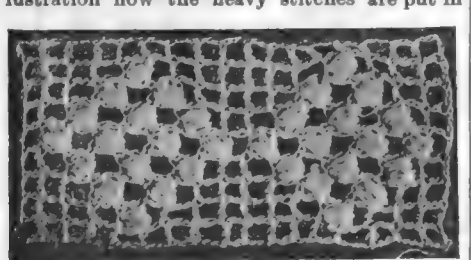
Although this trimming looks as if it would be very hard to make the rings all in good shape, it is very simple making one half of each going across one way and finishing each one going back.

1. * Ch. 16, fasten with sc. back into 6th st; ch. 3, 12 tr. in loop, repeat from * 2 times; ch. 15, fasten back into 6th st, ch. 3; 24 tr. in loop, fasten with sc. in top of 3 ch. and around the connecting ch. forming a complete wheel.

2. * Ch. 11, fasten with sc. in top of last tr. in next wheel; make 12 tr. in loop forming another wheel, repeat from * until you have filled the next 2 wheels; ch. 13.

3. Fasten into 6th st. of wheel, ch. 3, 6 tr. in loop fasten to center of 11 ch. in last row; 6 tr. in loop, ch. 5, fasten with sc. to center st. of next wheel.

* Ch. 15, fasten in 6th st., ch. 3, 5 tr. in loop fasten to center of 11 ch., 6 tr. in loop; ch. 5, fasten in center of next wheel, repeat once from *; ch. 11, fasten in top of tr. in half wheel, 12 tr. in loop, ch. 11 repeat from * last wheel, then fasten the 11 ch. in 13 ch. in last row, and begin next row with 15 ch.

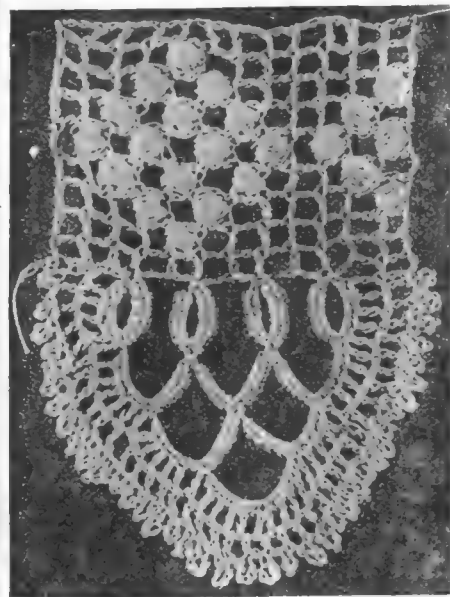


Our next insertion is also made of No. 30 Coat's thread. Make a chain of 32 stitches, one tr. in eighth chain, 2 ch. 1 tr. third stitch of chain, repeat until you have 9 open squares; 5 ch. turn, one tr. in top of last tr. 2 ch. 1 tr. in tr. 2 ch. 1 tr. in tr. 2 ch. 1 tr. in tr. Now you have 4 open squares to make the heavy stitch; make tr. into tr., put thread over hook, with hook draw the thread over the two chain below, draw this loop up as long as the tr.; place the fore finger of right hand on the needle over the threads, repeat drawing these loops until you have done it 8 times keeping the loops up as long as the tr. then draw the thread through all the stitches, then one chain to hold them firm; 1 tr. in tr. below, then 1 tr. 2 ch. until across; 5 ch., turn. You can see by the illustration how the heavy stitches are put in

between each block of heavy stitches; have 9 open squares and every time you turn make 5 ch. This pattern must be crocheted closely to look well.

You can see by our third illustration that the top is the same as the insertion and it takes one figure and one half of another to make a scallop. Begin the same as for insertion; make 3 rows, this will have one heavy stitch and 2 light stitches; then instead of 5 ch. make 12 ch. join back tightly to first ch. make 24 dc. on this loop, 2 ch. 1 tr. into first tr.; go across this time making 3 of the heavy stitches; 5 ch. turn make across with 4 heavy stitches. Loop

of 12 ch. on this 24 dc., 5 ch. across makes 3 heavy stitches, 5 ch. turn make across making 2 heavy stitches; 12 ch. 24 dc. 5 ch. turn make



across making 1 heavy stitch; across making 9 open squares; 12 ch. 24 dc. 5 ch. across making 1 heavy stitch; across making 2 heavy stitches; before going any farther with this thread, don't break it but with another thread of same number, catch with your hook this thread into the middle of the last loop of 24 dc. make 12 ch. join into middle of next loop with a tight stitch 12 ch. into middle of next loop; 12 ch. join into middle of next loop. You cover these loops and make the three loops at the same time. On the first loop make 12 dc. 12 ch. join this ch. back into middle of first scallop you have just finished; cover this with 24 dc. then finish the scallop you left and make 12 more dc.; 12 dc. on next scallop; 12 ch. fasten back to the middle of the second scallop 12 dc. on this chain, 12 ch. fasten back 24 dc. on this; this is the last scallop on bottom, now finish the two sides of scallops left with 12 dc. on each; this brings the thread back just where you started with it; fasten and cut it; now you finish with the first thread making 1 tr. 1 ch. all the way around the scallop, next row 1 tr. 6 ch. catching the thread back into the chain to make a picot, then go across the upper part making 3 heavy stitches; this finishes the pattern.

Make a chain of 45 stitches turn one tr. back in 6 ch. 1 tr. in 3 ch. repeat to end of chain. You now have 15 open squares, this is the width and foundation of the trimming. 1st. row, 5 ch. 1 tr. in top, tr. in last row * 2 ch. tr. repeat until you have 7 open squares 2 tr. in square, 1 tr. in top of tr. 7 more open squares, 5 ch. turn.

2 Row, 6 open squares, 10 tr. 6 open squares. 3 " 5 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 6 open squares.

4 " 4 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 4 open squares.

5 Row, 3 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 3 open squares.

6 Row 2 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 5 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 2 open squares.

7 Row 3 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 3 open squares.

8 Row 4 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 4 open squares.

9 Row 5 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 5 open squares.

10 Row 6 open squares 10 tr. 6 open squares.

11 " 7 open squares 4 tr. 7 open squares.

This finishes the first figure.

12 Row 5 open squares 4 tr. 3 o. s. 4 tr. 5 o. s.

13 " 5 open squares 7 tr. 1 o. s. 7 tr. 5 o. s.

14 " the same as 13th.

15 " 2 o. s. 10 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s.

16 Row 3 o. s. 9 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 9 tr. 3 o. s.

17 " 6 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 6 o. s.

18 " 3 o. s. 10 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 10 tr. 3 o. s.

19 " 3 o. s. 10 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s.

20 Row 5 o. s. 7 tr. 1 o. s. 7 tr. 5 o. s.

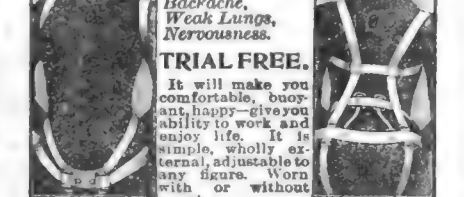
21 " same as 20th.

22 " 5 o. s. 4 tr. 3 o. s. 4 tr. 5 o. s.

This finishes the second figure; you will see in the last is used o. s. for open square; they are all made with treble and 2 chain. These two figures are used alternately; be sure to keep the trimming the same width, making 5 ch. every time you turn so the squares will be even.

A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE.

Our Spring overhauling of stock shows a few hundred cards of Darning Cotton on hand, 48 yds. on each card, several shades: tan, black, white, drab, etc. One card, 8c.; four cards, 10c., all mailing charges paid by us. COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



TRIAL FREE.

It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, wholly external, adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset.

We have over 15,000 letters like this: Chandler, Okla., July 27, 1899.

Your Brace did all you said about it and more for me. It has saved me a big doctor's bill and brought me good health, which I had not had before in 25 years. My troubles were droopy, headache, lung disease, stomach and other ills to which women are subject.

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Write today for particulars and illustrated book mailed free in plain sealed envelope. Address: The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 27, Salina, Kansas.

Every woman should have this Brace.

TRIAL Treatment FREE

DRINK HABIT cured secretly. Write for booklet on the Drink Habit and its POSITIVE CURE. Mrs. May Hawkins, L. J., 121, Grand Rapids, Mich.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR

less with \$1.00, and we will send you this NEW IMPROVED ACME QUEEN PARLOR ORGAN, by Frank C. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot, and if you find it exactly as represented, equal to organs that retail at \$75.00 to \$100.00, the greatest value you ever saw and far better than organs advertised by others at more money, pay the freight agent OUR SPECIAL 90 DAYS' OFFER PRICE, \$31.75, less the \$1.00, or \$30.75, and freight charges.

\$31.75 IS OUR SPECIAL 90 DAYS' PRICE. Less than one-half the price charged by others. SUCH AN OFFER WAS NEVER MADE BEFORE.

THE ACME QUEEN is one of the most DURABLE AND SWEET-EST TONED instruments ever made. From the illustration shown, which is engraved direct from a photograph, you can form some idea of its beautiful appearance. Made from solid quarter sawed oak, antique finish, handsomely decorated and ornamented, LATEST 1899 STYLE. THE ACME QUEEN is 6 feet 5 inches high, 43 inches long, 23 inches wide and weighs 350 pounds. Contains 5 octaves, 11 stops, as follows: Diapason, Principal, Dulciana, Melodia, Celeste, Crescendos, Bass Coupler, Treble Coupler, Diapason Forte and Vox Humana; 2 Octave Couplers, 1 Tone Swell, 1 Grand Organ Swell, 4 Sets of Organ Tones, Resonatory Pipe Quality Reeds, 1 Set of 37 Pure Sweet Melodia Reeds, 1 Set of 27 charmingly Brilliant Celeste Reeds, 1 Set of 24 Rich Hollow Smooth Diapason Reeds, 1 Set of 24 Pleasing Soft Melodious Principal Reeds. THE ACME QUEEN action consists of the celebrated Newell Reeds, which are only used in the highest grade instruments; fitted with Hammond Couplers and Vox Humana, also best Doige felts, leathers, etc., bellows of the best rubber cloth, 3-ply bellows stock and finest leather in valves. THE ACME QUEEN is furnished with a 10x12 beveled plate French mirror, nickel plated pedal frames, and every modern improvement. We furnish free a handsome cover stand and best instruction book published.

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OUR RELIABILITY IS ESTABLISHED. If you have not dealt with us, ask your neighbor about us, write the publisher or of this paper or Metropolitan National Bank, or Corn Exchange National Bank, Chicago; or German Exchange Bank, New York; or any railroad or express company in Chicago. We have a capital of over \$700,000.00, occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago, and employ nearly 2,000 people in our own building. WE SELL ORGANS AT \$22.00 and up; PIANOS, \$116.00 and up; also everything in musical instruments at lowest wholesale prices. Write for free special organ, piano and musical instrument catalogue.

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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

With a June greeting, my dears, and a cluster of rare days to give to each of you as a welcome in the first month of summer, let us sit down together under the roses and talk over our letters of mutual interest.

The first is from Ethelyn, Rolla Mo., and she asks for Cousin Marion's address. For her benefit, as well as others, let me say it is "In care of Comfort" but Cousin Marion cannot answer personal letters unless upon some urgent matter that cannot be otherwise answered. This will explain why a good many personal letters from the cousins have never been answered.

J. F. T., Griffin, Mo.—We cannot give the address. B. Sun, Hallock, Mo.—The lady does not always give the man an engagement ring, but it is often done, and is quite appropriate. Of course, it is nothing so elaborate as the one she receives from him.

Ignorance, Fairburn, Ga.—Minutes of a Sunday School should be written as minutes of any meeting, though they would necessarily be briefer, as the proceedings are not those of ordinary organized meetings. You will have to get details from some one on the spot. (2) "Not at all," or "It is not necessary" make very good replies to the usual "I beg your pardon." Use your own judgment.

Lygia, Neenah, Wis.—A man who says he loves a girl and yet will not call on her because he does not like the lady she is visiting, is a very sorry sort of lover, and you ought to drop him quick and hard.

Sunflower, Albert, Kans.—Merely bow your acknowledgment to the thanks of a man who has done you a favor if you haven't any words handy. There is no rule for this sort of thing, and "woman's wit" should tell you the right thing to say at the right time. (2) Exercise, sunshine and careful dieting are the best cure for oily skins and their attendant evils.

Marguerite, Springfield, Ills.—You did quite right in not inviting your escort in after 10.30 p. m. (2) It is quite correct for the man to ask if he may call. (3) The young man is just a little "fresh" possibly, but he did not exceed the limit in asking you, in your place of business, if he might go with you to the entertainment.

Meta, Portland, Ore.—There is no rule as to who begins conversation after an introduction. (2) Why should a young lady hold her "beau's hat during church?" Is she afraid some good deacon will steal it? (3) It is very common, very vulgar, almost disreputable, to bow to a man on the street whom you do not know. (4) What kind of cards do you mean?

Glory, New Haven, Conn.—Don't remember anything about your other letter. (2) A man has no

right to pay your car fare when he happens to meet you in a car, but if he insists, you will have to submit. Car fare etiquette is rather vague as yet. (3) Accept the invitation to dinner if you want to go with the man. (4) Don't stop to talk with a man on the street, but ask him to walk along with you. If he is a gentleman he can't refuse. (5) I am surprised to learn that you know so little about kissing the young men. (6) Do not the best class of New Haven girls flirt with college boys? If they do, then you may.

D. C., Lacona, N. Y.—I cannot give you the addresses of the cousins.

Ernestine, Meeker, Minn.—Have nothing to do with matrimonial advertisements. (2) By all means accept the young man who is making love to another girl if you want to be unhappy ever after.

May, Vinton, La.—You had better let somebody fix your hair who knows how to do it right. Bay rum is not hurtful to the skin. It smarts a little, but that is all.

Dish Washer, Cascade, Ia.—The best thing a fifteen year old can do is to think about something more improving to her mind, her manners and her spelling, than "beaus" are.

Virgie, Higginsport, O.—Hope you will have a lovely birthday and a whole lot more of them. It's nice to be born in June, isn't it?

Rose Bud, Ponca, Neb.—Of course, don't notice the strange man who speaks to you. (2) Don't know anything about winks, except that they are disreputable. (3) "Good night" is usually the best thing to say at the gate when a "fellow" takes you home. (4) Two young ladies may go to a dance at a hall, unaccompanied except by a chaperone. Dance only with men you know.

Rose Leaf, Bellville, Texas.—There is nothing for you to do with the young man who made love to you and married another girl, except to smile and show him you are glad you are not his wife.

A. L. A., Mt. Vernon, Texas.—A napkin may be put beside a plate or under it, or in front of it, or fancifully folded in a glass before. (2) You seem to be a very warm and true-hearted girl, of good principles, good sense and good will. Under the circumstances I think you could put the other man out of your life and in your devotion to the man who wants to marry you, find that after all life was well worth the living. Try it and see if I am not right.

Myrtle, Rosewell, Ida.—Write to Mr. J. Litt, Opera House, St. Paul, Minn., for the information you seek.

Generosity, Ben Hur, Cal.—It may be right enough, but it is not expedient for a woman of thirty to marry a boy of nineteen. Your other questions indicate plainly that you should wait at least five years, and then you will have learned their answers by experience.

Blue, Goliad, Texas.—Tell the man you can not marry him, if you do not love him. (2) You may write to one man while accepting the general attentions of others.

Scared Rabbit, Augusta, Ga.—There's nothing on earth the matter except a silly notion you have taken. Throw it aside and have a good time with your young friends, boys and girls. The more you think about it the worse it will become, so forget it.

Dark Eyes, Kalispel, Mon.—You can only learn where manuscript may be sold by sending it to editors. (2) There is no recipe for rosy cheeks. Consult your family physician.

Mattie, Norton, Kan.—School girls should not be writing to the young men. Nor should sixteen-year-old girls be receiving presents from them.

Any, Farm Ridge, Ills.—You have the right to the first dance with your escort, but you should relinquish your right to the young lady who is your guest. (2) The lady should be helped out of the rig before the horse is tied. (2) Yes, it is proper to ask the young man to call.

Blue Eyes, High Point, N. C.—Settle it as you will between yourselves, but do not take the man you do not love. Return him his presents, of course.

Estelle, Cheyenne, Wyo.—Put it all out of your mind. I won't say your heart is firmly and irrevocably. It may be very hard, but it is your only sal-

Easily Earned. No Money Required. Samples FREE.



You can earn this splendid Couch, 76x28 in., extra large, upholstered in three colored figured velours, tapestry or corduroy, best steel springs, deeply tufted, very heavy fringe, worth \$13 in any retail store, by selling only \$13 worth of our High Grade Toilet Soaps or Perfumes among your friends and neighbors at 25c per box or bottle. We trust you for the Soap and Perfume. Our handsome illustrated Catalogue showing 100 other valuable premiums, including Bicycles, Watches, Cameras, Goldens, Bookens, Silverware, Tea Sets, etc. Sent Free. Don't miss this wonderful offer. Write today. BULLOCK, WARD & CO., Dept. 29 Fifth Ave., Chicago.

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SPANISH NEEDLES, GOLD, etc., for gold hunters and treasure seekers. Latest improved. Circulars 2 cts. F. & M. Agency, Box 209, Palmyra, Pa.

A BIG OFFER. \$500. MADE IN A MINUTE. We will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$50 or \$100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

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LOOK FREE. This Magnificent Solid Silver plated Bracelet. Don't send any money—just name and address. We will send postpaid 10 Large Linen Dollies; different among your friends at the \$1 and we will send by return mail the magnificent Bracelet. Address Empire Jewelry Co., C. Lock Box 887, Corning, N. Y.

vation, and his. If he is as honest as you are, and as good, he will do as you do, and your combined strength will conquer in the end.

Golden, Oakland, Cal.—Ease and grace of expression is a born faculty, and cannot be acquired. Difficulties may be conquered to some extent by systematic training. (2) Your vocabulary may be enlarged by reading, and by carefully looking up the derivation and meaning of all words you do not know. It is a good thing to read, say a page of a standard author, and then rewrite it from memory, noting the difference in the words used by him and by yourself. Ask the principal of your public schools what is the best book on composition.

Miss Jane, Mico, Miss.—Of course, ask your bean to go walking when the others go. Why not? (2) It is not right for a girl to see a man, at any place, to whom her parents object.

I will say to J. H. C., who is not a cousin, that no man has a right to take his hat off to a lady on the street or elsewhere unless she has bowed or spoken to him. A man who does so should be chased out of town.

Now, dears, I have answered all your questions, and I am glad to notice that you do not ask so many at once as you did. May the first month of summer be all roses to you, and may we meet again in July. By by. COUSIN MARION.

A POCKET MIRROR.

See yourself as others see you. One of our large imitation aluminum covered pocket mirrors for the boys and girls at school, for the teachers, for men in the woods. Just 5 cents for one with our latest premium supplement. Golden Moments, Augusta, Maine.

Sent Free to Everybody!

The COMFORT HAMMOCK.

As a Reward for a little friendly service.

BOYS AND GIRLS:

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We have 17,300 strong, perfect, Oriental, hammocks, which for the next sixty days we shall place on the Free List, upon the conditions specified below. This will enable every one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one absolutely free. These Hammocks are over 8 feet long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight, is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends.

No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To receive in one of these health-giving articles in some cool hook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury. Now to every one who will get up a club of 4 subscribers for this paper at the special trial price, 25 cents per year each in advance, we will send one of these Hammocks FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of this great paper to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, you can easily get up a club in one evening; for with its many improvements and new original copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club, we will send our paper for one year, together with one of these Hammocks (all express and mailing charges paid by us) upon receipt of 97 cts. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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The above illustration, engraved from a photograph, shows the new 1900 model, flush joint Acme King Bicycle. Every bicycle will be exactly as shown in illustration, with the exception of the sprockets, which come in a variety of patterns, and the handle bars, which are furnished in either up or down turned, as desired. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

OUR BINDING GUARANTEE WITH EVERY ACME KING AND ACME QUEEN BICYCLE. We furnish a written, binding, one-year guarantee, which accompanies every bicycle, by the terms and conditions of which if any piece or part gives out within one year, by reason of defect in material or workmanship, we will replace or repair it free of charge.

THE ACME KING AND ACME QUEEN BICYCLES are made by one of the best bicycle makers in America. They are the equal of bicycles that retail everywhere at \$50.00. They are made from the best material that money can buy, made on the very latest lines, newest models for 1900; they embody every new improved and up-to-date feature of every other high grade bicycle made, with the defects of none. They have the latest one-piece hanger, flush at every joint, flush cluster seat post, expander seat post and handle bar, 22 or 24-inch frame made from 1 1/8-inch cold drawn seamless tubing, connections are all the finest steel forgings and stampings, handsomely finished; they have the very latest diamond frame in the ladies' style, the very latest handsomely curved drop frame in the ladies' style, the wheels are the highest grade 28-inch, fitted with genuine Hercules spokes, full finished. The very best air seasoned rock elm rims are used, very best large size hubs, made from bar steel, heavily nickel plated. The cranks are made from the finest forgings, the bearings from tool steel hardened in oil, accurately trued to gauge. Sprockets are made from selected forgings, heavily nickel plated and they come in a variety of handsome patterns. We furnish with these bicycles at our special \$15.75 price our own special high grade, season guaranteed, Seroco single tube tires, a pair of the highest grade tires made, complete with tire repair outfit. The bicycle is fully equipped with high grade chain, high grade ball-bearing adjustable pedals, full padded saddle, up or down-turned handle bars, tool bag, pump, wrench, oiler and tire repair kit. The bicycles are beautifully finished, handsomely decorated and ornamented. They come regularly in plain solid black, aighly enameled, which makes by far the richest appearing wheel. We also furnish them in green or maroon with striped line ornamentation when so desired. All usual parts are heavily nickel plated on copper.

AT \$8.00 TO \$12.00 we sell cheap, unguaranteed wheels, the equal of those widely advertised in this and other papers and in catalogues, at \$14.00 to \$20.00, for 1900, gent's or ladies' size, with complete equipment, all covered by a written one-year binding guarantee, the equal of bicycles that retail everywhere at \$25.00 to \$35.00.

OUR SPECIAL FREE BICYCLE CATALOGUE COVERS OUR ENTIRE LINE OF BICYCLES AND BICYCLE SUPPLIES AND ALL AT THE LOWEST PRICES EVER QUOTED. DON'T DELAY YOUR ORDER A DAY. OUR SPECIAL \$15.75 PRICE WILL HOLD GOOD ONLY UNTIL OUR PRESENT STOCK IS DISPOSED OF. Address,

SEND NO MONEY

frame, and we will send you this the highest grade 1900 model Acme King or Acme Queen Bicycle by freight or express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it thoroughly at your nearest railroad station, call in any bicycle expert to examine it and if you find it exactly as represented, perfectly satisfactory, pronounced by everyone a strictly high grade 1900 model wheel, the greatest bicycle bargain ever offered, the equal of any bicycle made, regardless of price; if you are convinced that you are saving from \$20.00 to \$30.00 and getting such a bicycle as you could not get elsewhere at anything like the price, PAY YOUR RAILROAD AGENT OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, \$15.75 and freight or express charges, which average from 50 to 75 cents for each 500 miles.

TEN DAYS' FREE TRIAL.

After you pay the railroad agent our special offer price of \$15.75, give the bicycle ten days' trial, during which time compare it with other bicycles that sell at double the price, and if you are not still satisfied that you have saved \$20.00 to \$30.00 and that you have the greatest bicycle value ever furnished, you can return the bicycle to us, at our expense of freight or express charges both ways, and we will immediately return your money.

OUR CHALLENGE OFFER.

ORDER THIS, OUR 1900 MODEL ACME KING OR QUEEN BICYCLE at \$15.75 and you can then order a bicycle from any other house or houses advertised in this or any other paper, let the different bicycles come to your railroad station to be examined, examine and compare them side by side, and if our bicycle is not pronounced by everyone at least \$10.00 cheaper in price and \$20.00 better in quality, you can return it to us at our expense.

YOU CAN MAKE \$500.00 BETWEEN NOW AND FALL TAKING ORDERS FOR Order an Acme King or Queen at \$15.75 and you can sell it the day you get it at \$20.00 to \$25.00, continue the work during the season and you can sell from 50 to 100 bicycles, underselling every dealer in your section, and make for yourself at least \$500.00.

\$15.75 IF YOU ORDER IMMEDIATELY. SPECIAL \$15.75 PRICE ON OUR HIGH GRADE, 1900 MODEL, flush joint Acme King and Acme Queen bicycles until our present stock is exhausted. If you wish to take advantage of our special offer price and get a bicycle at \$15.75, the equal of bicycles that sell everywhere at \$40.00 to \$50.00, you should place your order immediately.

ASK YOUR NEIGHBORS ABOUT OUR BICYCLES. Last year we sold nearly 50,000 bicycles. At least a number of our wheels went into every community. Some of your neighbors are riding our bicycles. Ask them if they found the bicycle they bought of us last year perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and much cheaper than they could buy elsewhere. Consider that our wheels have been greatly improved, and our prices have been greatly reduced. If you have any doubt about our ability to furnish a better wheel for less money than you can buy from any other house in Chicago or elsewhere, write to some friend in Chicago, and ask them to come and examine our wheels and then examine the wheels offered by other houses, and if they don't write you that you can save from \$5.00 to \$20.00 on a bicycle by buying from us, we will not expect your order.

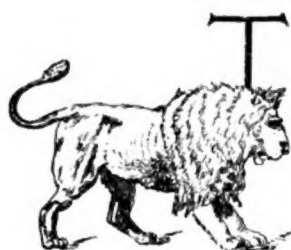
AS TO OUR RELIABILITY. German Exchange Bank of New York, the Metropolitan National Bank or Corn Exchange National Bank of Chicago, or to any railroad company, express company, business house or resident of Chicago and customers in every town in every state in the Union.

DO NOT order our Acme King or Queen at our special \$15.75 price unless you expect to accept it and pay the railroad agent our special offer price of \$15.75 and freight charges when received. If you find it exactly as represented, perfectly satisfactory, and a far better wheel for the money than you could possibly buy elsewhere. We are anxious to receive your order; we know we can save you money, but we only want to hear from those who are ordering in good faith, who mean business, and who understand that \$15.75 and freight charges must be paid to the railroad agent before they can receive the bicycle. The railroad agent will not deliver this bicycle to you until you have paid him our special offer price, \$15.75, and express or freight charges, but we will return your \$15.75, and all railroad charges, if, at any time, within ten days, you become dissatisfied for any cause whatsoever and return the bicycle to us.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.) CHEAPEST SUPPLY CHICAGO, ILL. HOUSE ON EARTH.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE moon overtakes the sun, forming what is called the "New Moon", at about nineteen minutes after eight o'clock in the evening of 26th of June, this year. At the moment of meeting, the 20th degree of Capricorn will be rising and the 13th degree of Scorpio will be on the south meridian. Saturn will be nearly an hour above the eastern horizon in the ascending sign Capricorn, where he is in his dignity; Herschel will be in the 11th house in the moon's node and Jupiter will be in the 10th near the 11th cusp in his own sign; Mercury and Venus, nearly together, are just about to pass down in the west; the sun and moon have already set only a few degrees away from Neptune, and Mars is in the 4th house.

As in the figure for the summer quarter given last month, the benevolent Jupiter holds powerful sway in shaping conditions and events to the great good of our Nation and the prosperity and welfare of the whole people. In the language of the books "The ruled people shall continue to thrive and be fortunate and successful under his government" during the period of the lunation.

Saturn ruler of the Ascendant and rising indicates some marked improvement in real estate matters and particular activity in the building trades; fruitfulness of the earth and favor to farmers.

Mars in the 4th, however, threatens some harm around the 8th and the middle ten days in July. It will be reasonable to look for quite a heated term with probability of much electrical phenomena and unusual thunder and hail storm in certain sections in those days, which may detract somewhat from the general good promises as to vegetation. Good care is suggested in the days indicated for avoidance of physical ills arising from intemperate use of ice water or other cold drinks and carelessness as to diet. For this year there will be more discomfort and sickness from ailments of the stomach and liver than for many years. Intemperate use of stimulating foods and drinks will be attended with more than customary mischief and apoplectic troubles will be more dangerous than usual.

Some very important engagements and developments in the dramatic, artistic and musical world are likely, and marriage of some one high in these professions invites public comment. There will be more pleasure seeking than usual in July, unusual travel upon the water, and likewise an increase of mortality from drowning. Let all pleasure seekers have unusual care in this respect.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JULY, 1900.

JULY. 1-Sunday. A day inviting patience, forbearance, rest and quiet.

2-Monday. Bright and prosperous are the conditions of this day; authors and artists may claim this as their own; publishers and dealers in poetical works and art productions should improve every moment; the intellectual pursuits are particularly favored; the mind is clear and active, the imagination lively, and activity and cheerfulness are generally noticeable; the conditions give special activity in dealings in fancy goods, jewelry, perfumes, silks, and articles of beauty and adornment; tailors, watchmakers, jewelers and workers in wax have happy influences; make thy journeys, take recreation and seek pleasure and amusement; the day promises happy marriage to those desiring it, and activity in the individual activities are radically evil in this respect. Persons born about the 25th of January, 16th of May, 25th of July, or 18th of November, of past years, are particularly favored on this day and should not waste a moment but push all their engagements with vigor, especially if they find their vocations among the elegant classes.

3-Tuesday. Ask no favors from thy landlord, nor look for much benefit from dealings with contractors or any persons engaged in the dirty vocations of life; in decision and forgetfulness will be common faults; make no beginnings in any matter of consequence.

4-Wednesday. Independence Day. One of the superior days of the month. Improve every moment, notwithstanding it is a holiday; be active in all matters of an intellectual and literary character; travel and make engagements in all ways possible.

5-Thursday. Baffling circumstances attend the prosecution of business relating to fancy and ornamental goods, musical merchandise and also the pursuit of the fine arts; beware of making any matrimonial engagement at this time nor expect much enjoyment from the pursuit of pleasure or amusement.

6-Friday. Urge business vigorously during this day; increase thine efforts in the prosecution of business such as concerns house or lands; deal in such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool and grain and with discretion in mining and railroad stocks, provided thy nativity is favorable also in this respect at this time; make contracts for building and repairing; deal with persons engaged in fiduciary capacities; enter into shipping contracts and engage help.

7-Saturday. This is an excellent day for pushing matters connected with art, music, fancy goods, articles of dress and the beautiful and elegant in life; ask favors from thine employer.

8-Sunday. This day is peculiarly fortunate for religious affairs, though the evening should be given the preference in such matters. Persons born about the 5th of January or April, 8th of October or 6th of December, of past years, are likely to be in the midst of baffling cir-

cumstances at this time and will need to exercise more than usual care in matters of diet and also in their business associations and enterprises. They should not inaugurate any new ventures at this time, but act very conservatively in all their undertakings.

9-Monday. Put a bridle on the tongue in the forenoon, cultivate patience and avoid excitement and inflammations of the body; also have care in handling fire or combustibles as some unusual losses from fire are indicated at large in these passing days; give preference to the afternoon for all kinds of literary work and for dealing with persons in the intellectual callings; also for making commercial contracts of consequence.

10-Tuesday. The forenoon is the best part of this day for business engagements of any kind, though but little encouragement can be given for any transaction pertaining to lands or buildings; keep out of underground places and be watchful against fire.

11-Wednesday. A day not specially conducive to progress in any direction, though it is by no means unfavorable for any of the general transactions of life; the evening is less propitious than usual and musical, dramatic, and artistic callings will be adversely affected.

12-Thursday. Do not seek promotion in official station nor any advancement in business from thine employer; be watchful of the purse and avoid taking risks in the commercial world. Persons born about the 11th of January, 1st of June, 12th of July, or 3rd of December, of past years, will need to exercise extraordinary care for avoidance of controversy and litigation in their business affairs; should be watchful against any inflammatory complaint and see that they are not hurt by vicious animals and that no loss comes from fire or explosion.

13-Friday. Another of the superior days of the month and REGULUS advises his friends to engage actively in the prosecutions of their several callings; begin important work of all kinds whether in mechanism, trade, or the fine arts; the forenoon is best for commercial ventures and dealings with persons of wealth and refinement.

14-Saturday. Have caution in all thy business engagements of the forenoon; do not deal in real estate nor make contracts for building or repairs; sign no papers of consequence, nor expect much permanent progress in any undertaking; the middle hours of the day are the best. Persons born about the 11th of January, 1st of March, 30th of May, 14th of July, 2d of September, or 1st of December, of past years, are likely to be more baffled and disappointed in conducting their affairs at this time, and should not make beginning in any important transaction. Business ventures now presenting themselves to such persons are not to be relied upon as they are not destined to work for the advantage of persons so born and will prove delusive and exhaustive of the worldly substance.

15-Sunday. Not particularly promising for a Sabbath day, though the middle hours of the day are the best; do not expect any advantage or satisfaction from thy dealings with the aged in the evening.

16-Monday. Push all regularly established business on this day but do not make beginnings in new ventures; deal with government authorities or persons in authority in the middle hours of the day.

17-Tuesday. Commercial men will find the middle hours of this day the best, when all general business should be pressed. It is not a good time, however, for the execution of writings, particularly those concerned with real estate, nor for promises or agreements relating to literary or educational matters. Persons born about the 4th of February, 6th of May, or the 8th of August or November, of past years, are likely to be unusually disturbed or anxious over writings, contracts or matters of account, or have mental or nervous excitement or baffling annoyances in correspondence or their affairs generally while those born about the 5th of April, 8th of October, or 8th of December, or June of past years have now more agreeable and profitable correspondence; effect more satisfactory engagements and contracts and should improve the time to push their important literary ventures. Persons born about the 6th of January or December or the 9th of July, of past years should have unusual care just at this time, for the 5th of April, 8th of October, or 8th of December, or June of past years have now more agreeable and profitable correspondence; effect more satisfactory engagements and contracts and should improve the time to push their important literary ventures. Persons born about the 6th of January or December or the 9th of July, of past years should have unusual care just at this time, for the 5th of April, 8th of October, or 8th of December, or June of past years have now more agreeable and profitable correspondence; effect more satisfactory engagements and contracts and should improve the time to push their important literary ventures.

18-Wednesday. Be early astir; be active and diligent in business and urge all honorable pursuits to the utmost, giving preference to the early hours for thy dealings with chemists, surgeons, manufacturers, iron and brass workers, bakers and all persons in the mechanical trades, also for all literary engagements and dealings with persons in such vocations.

19-Thursday. Quite a favorable day for the agricultural classes also for engaging with landlords and in matters connected with lands and houses; the afternoon and evening are particularly recommended for the elegant pursuits and for important engagements of a dramatic, musical or social nature.

20-Friday. Make no contract in the morning and be very careful in the use of the pen, postponing correspondence until the afternoon. Literary matters are adversely affected in the forenoon.

21-Saturday. Ask favors of persons in authority during the forenoon but keep a watchful eye upon the purse as needless or unprofitable expenditures are quite likely to be invited.

22-Sunday. An excellent day for the improvement of the mind and for proper appreciation of the merits of literary and scientific productions; pulpit efforts are likely to be eloquent and effective.

23-Monday. The forenoon hours are the best and all general business should be prosecuted with vigor therein, but as the afternoon advances baffling influences interfere with realization of best results from engagements of those later hours.

24-Tuesday. For authors, musicians and artists, this is an especially fortunate time as it is also for matrimonial engagements; let all engaged in the polite arts improve every moment, urging and realizing from their several pursuits; purchase goods for trade also all articles of dress, adornment, or decoration, also musical merchandise, dramatic appurtenances, artists' materials etc. The day is generally one of the best ones for all the honorable undertakings; make beginnings, open new stores and in every way push thy commercial enterprises.

25-Wednesday. A day not specially conducive to progress in any direction, though it is by no means unfavorable for any of the general transactions of life.

26-Thursday. Begin this day with the sun and urge all manner of business to the utmost. It is the merchant's own day, and also very fortunate for every honorable pursuit; buy goods for trade, speculate in legitimate ways and apply for favor or money accommodations during the forenoon.

27-Friday. Do not abate thine efforts of yesterday, but press all manner of business especially of literary or artistic nature; give preference to the afternoon for transaction of business concerned with hardware, cutlery, metals, glassware, brass and iron work and chemical or electrical apparatus; and experiment in chemistry with machinery.

28-Saturday. Give preference to the forenoon of this day for the active pursuit of all general business and particularly such as is concerned with houses and lands and for the purchase and sale of such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool and grain; the afternoon is adverse in a commercial sense; do not speculate nor waste thy means for needless or unsatisfactory expenditures. Persons born about the 20th of February or May, or 25th of August are cautioned against losses and property shrinkages likely to result here from

PERFECT MANHOOD

Prof. Jules Laborde's Marvelous

French Preparation of

"CALTHOS"

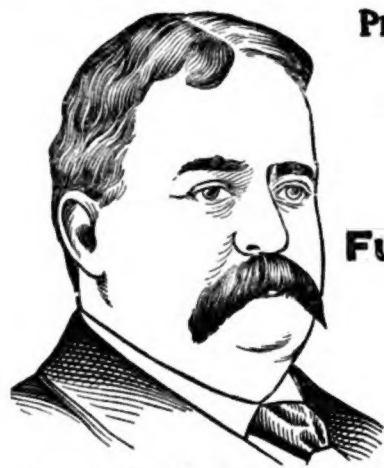
For Lost Manhood.

Full 5 Days' Treatment

SENT FREE

By Sealed Mail.

NO C. O. D. OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.



Every person who is a sufferer from nervous diseases should write the Von Mohl Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, at once, and accept their offer of a five days' trial treatment free of charge. This is no C. O. D. or DEPOSIT scheme but a liberal proposition made to unfortunate sufferers by this long-established concern, which is the largest importer of specifics for nervous and sexual diseases in the world.

The Von Mohl Co. has the sole American rights for Prof. Laborde's French preparation of "Calthos," the only remedy known to advanced medical science that will positively cure nervous debility. This remedy has for years been used as a specific in the French and German armies, and since its introduction into the United States has cured many thousands of sufferers, and the remarkable success of the remedy in Europe has been repeated in this country.

In order to place this wonderful treatment in the hands of every person who suffers the mental and physical anguish of sexual weakness, The Von Mohl Co., has decided to send a free trial treatment to all who write at once. The remedy is sent by mail in a plain package, and there is no publicity in receiving it or taking it. Accompanying the medicine there is a full treatise in plain language for you to read. Take the medicine privately with perfect safety, and a sure cure is guaranteed.

Lost vitality creeps upon men unawares. Do not deceive yourself or remain in ignorance while you are being dragged down by this insidious disease. No matter what the cause may be, whether early abuses, excesses or overwork and business cares, the results are the same—premature loss of strength and memory, emissions, impotency, varicocele and

shrunk parts. This specific remedy will cure you at any stage before epilepsy results, with ensuing consumption and insanity. "Calthos" goes directly to the seat of the trouble, no matter of how long standing, and the patient feels the benefit of the first day's treatment. In five days the medicines sent free will make you feel like a new man.

The Von Mohl Co. often receives the most astonishing testimonials from persons who have taken only five days' treatment. They have thousands of testimonials from those who have been permanently cured after having been given up by doctors, misled and ruined in health by disreputable medical schemes, and when they had given up their last hope for health and happiness. No sensible person will permit his name to be used for a testimonial as an admission that he had any of the diseases for which the preparation of "Calthos" is a specific cure. Some irresponsible advertisers are using "made-up" testimonials, but the Von Mohl Co. invariably declines to make public the names or correspondence of any patients who have been cured by "Calthos."

Five days' treatment will be placed in your hands free of cost, and you are earnestly urged for your own sake to send for it without delay. Write to day and send your address. It is not necessary to give embarrassing details of your symptoms. The book accompanying the five days' treatment will enable you to take the medicine in private and treat yourself successfully at home. It costs nothing to try this remedy. It may cost you a great deal more to let this offer go by. Write today. Address THE VON MOHL CO., 525 B. CINCINNATI, OHIO. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States.

speculative investments and unwise expenditures; while persons born about the 21st of January, 22d of March, or 24th of July, September or November, of past years, have improved finances and a much better degree of success in life this year and near this time.

29-Sunday. Specially conducive to mental eccentricities and indulgences in the imaginative and marvelous in literature. Social matters are somewhat unpleasantly affected at this time in the lives of persons born about the 27th of March, 1st of October, or 23rd of December of past years and more than ordinary care should be had for avoidance of any kind of intemperate indulgences.

30-Monday. Guard well the temper on this day and be not drawn into disputes and controversies; avoid travel and be wary of entering upon new undertakings now presenting themselves; sign no contracts of consequence and be cautious in the use of the pen.

31-Tuesday. Push all business to the utmost in the forenoon hours when buy goods for trade and deal with banks and persons of wealth; the elegant pursuits are not favored during the noon hours, but the late afternoon and evening invite mental efforts and all intellectual engagements.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhoea, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

LADIES, Send to Mrs. H. C. Fretter, Detroit, Mich., for free package ORANGE LILY. Cures all female diseases.

ASTROLOGY To prove the correctness of my Astrological System, I will give you my personal attention and send you FREE, a personal typewritten Horoscope of your life. Send your date of birth and 2c. stamp for postage. Prof. H. Edison, Astrologer, T. Binghamton, N.Y.

BLOOD POISON

HAVE YOU Sore throat, Pimples, Copper Colored Spots, Aches, Old Sores, Ulcers in Mouth, Hair-Falling? Write **COOK REMEDY CO., 1731 Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill.**, for proofs of cures. Capital, \$500,000. Worst cases cured 15 to 35 days. 100-page book free.

I can cure your children of incontinence of urine. Sample FREE. Address F. E. MAY, R. D., Bloomington, Ill.

Mothers

\$50 IN GOLD FREE.

The very stylish dandy that appears in this advertisement represents a flower that grows wild in our yards and fields.

We are going to give away \$50 IN GOLD to those who are able to send us the correct name of this flower. WE DO NOT WANT A CENT OF YOUR MONEY, and there is only one condition attached to this offer, which will not take one hour of your time.

When you have made out your answer send it to us on a postal card, AND YOU WILL HEAR FROM US BY RETURN MAIL.

It may take you an entire evening to solve this question, but STICK TO IT AND TRY

AND GET YOUR SHARE OF THE \$50, as we are going to give it away, and you might as well have your share as not.

The Metropolitan and Rural Home, 225 William St., New York City.

ASTROLOGY To prove the correctness of my Astrological System, I will give you my personal attention and send you FREE, a personal typewritten Horoscope of your life. Send your date of birth and 2c. stamp for postage. Prof. H. Edison, Astrologer, T. Binghamton, N.Y.

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AN ALL ROUND CONVENIENCE AND MONEY MAKER.



Aluminum Combined Pen and Pencil Holder.

HANDY

AS A POCKET

IN A SHIRT. HOLDS

PENCIL IN POCKET, PREVENTS

ITS ROLLING ON SLANTING DESK. A

PERFECT PENHOLDER. EJECTS PEN AUTO-

MATICALLY. A Perfect Pencil Extension and Rubber Protector.

Made of Aluminum, light as a feather—looks like silver and will always wear

the same—does not soil hands and will not corrode or rust.

Our Aluminum Combined Pen and Pencil Holder is a Brand New Article, novel and useful in a good many ways. Makes money for the dealer and agents, and pleases all who buy and use it. Is a quick seller. Any one can sell it, in fact it sells itself when and wherever properly shown. Is used by LADIES as well as GENTLEMEN and is a prime favorite with TEACHERS and SCHOOL CHILDREN. Use it once and you will not be without it. Order a sample and you will surely want a dozen, which is only enough to go around in an ordinary family with a few extra for friends. By sliding it on an ordinary lead pencil it makes a perfect pen holder. When used as pen holder it is automatic, ejecting the pen by sliding either way on pencil. Makes a fine desk tool as it can be used either as a pen or pencil and will not roll even on a moderately slanting surface. Greatest tool for school desk. Does away with pencil or pen holder as we have both in one. As a Pencil Holder it has no equal. It will hold pencil perfectly in vest or inside coat pocket or any other place which is not too thick for clasp to go over. Always on your pencil. Stays wherever you place it. No matter if your pockets are full of holes; it holds your pencil securely. Anyone can sell these holders in fact they sell themselves. Send to-day, don't delay. Address **FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.**

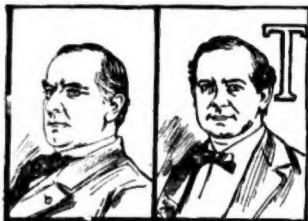
The price of these Holders with pencil is ten cents each, but we want them introduced quickly and make the following

SPECIAL OFFER. Enclose only 6c. for three months subscription to Family Herald and we will send free one sample holder, a nice rubber tipped pencil and best steel pen, all full particulars how to make honest dollars.

EXTRA SPECIAL OFFER. Send 25c. for a year's subscription and we send half dozen rubber tipped pencils which you can sell for 30c., half dozen Pen and Pencil holders sell for 30c., half dozen best steel pens sell for 30c., total retail value of goods given you free 90c., and we also send full directions and instructions how to start and carry on a most profitable business without capital.

How The Conventions Will Meet.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HERE is no American who lives that does not feel his blood tingle as the quadrennial contest approaches which elects another President of the United States of America.

The greatest and most powerful office on earth is to be filled and it will interest all readers of COMFORT to know by just what method this is done.

Our Presidents are not elected directly by the people but under the Constitution indirectly. That is, in each state there are nominated sets of electors for whom the citizens vote; and on a given date these electors meet and vote for a President and Vice President. The returns are then made up and sent by messenger to Washington. In due course of time both houses in Congress meet in joint convention and with the presiding officer of the Senate acting as Chairman, the envelopes are opened and vote of the states announced alphabetically. Tabulation is made and announcement of the people's choice made in due and legal form.

Then the convention dissolves and at a later date the President is inaugurated (on the 4th of March, following) in front of the capitol at Washington and enters his duties for four years. Ever since the Constitution was adopted there have been two parties of great strength as there is in this country. The Revolution brought out many men of talent and great popularity and Washington, Jefferson, Monroe and the Adamses were nominated and elected rather on public wish than party lines. In fact, in the earlier days the candidate receiving the largest number of votes in the Electoral college became President, while the next lower was usually accepted for the second place.

It was not until the time of President Jackson that party organization became perfected and the present system of voting for electors who tacitly agreed to vote in the college for party nominees developed. Up to that time electors were free to vote for whom they pleased after due deliberation, although it was always practically known whom they favored. For some time after the party leaders in Congress met in caucus and designated whom the standard bearers should be for each party. Free speech and dislike of dictation brought about party conventions which now vote as representative of each party until choice is made by each party of a candidate. In almost every state the modified Australian ballot system prevails and party organization is recognized in the formalities which have to be gone through. So that the custom which gradually grew up of organizing now exists in legal form and gives a definite state and legality to all nominations made, where formerly was no responsibility. In the present system each of the great parties has a National Committee which is formed by giving each state one member. They conduct, through their chosen chairmen and small executive committees, the whole campaign for their respective parties. Their existence is for four years and their delegations to the National conventions select their successors in each state. The committee meets and decides on the claims of the residents of various cities and finally votes in what city the convention shall be held and its date. The call is then issued inviting all voters agreeing in certain principles set forth to elect delegates to this National Convention. In each state four delegates-at-large and two delegates from each congressional district are selected with alternates. Thus the representation of each state in the convention is just double its representation in the House and Senate. On the date appointed the conventions meet and organization is made. In due time nominating speeches are made and ballots taken. Finally the party's candidate for President is announced and then follows a similar process for selection of a candidate for Vice President, who are nominated on a platform supposed to represent the principles of the party and which are read in the convention. After the convention has adjourned a chosen

committee is sent to announce verbally to the candidate the result. He thanks them and later declares himself in a "letter of acceptance," which announces his ideas. When both parties have gone through this process the campaign commences. Conventions are the rallying places of great political leaders and their followers from all over the Union. For days and nights the streets of the convention city are ablaze with color and lights and echo to the tread of marching political companies and delegations; and to the blare of trumpet and boom of cannon. In no other place can be found the excitement and enthusiasm of an American city during a National convention in its limits.

A Republican convention elects its candidates on a simple majority but the Democrats adhere to what is called the two-thirds rule, which requires a two-thirds vote to make a choice. Since the days of the heroes of the Revolution few of our great statesmen have been selected as candidates. A person generally of less talent but more "available" is selected. That means a sensible, vigorous and "magnetic" man, not too well known, is sought out. Once in a while a wave of enthusiasm brings out a war hero as a candidate. All the important National conventions have now been arranged for—May 9, the Populist at Sioux Falls, S. D., and on the same date the middle-of-the-road Populists at Cincinnati. June 19, the Republican at Philadelphia. June 27, the Prohibitionists at Chicago. July 4, the Democratic at Kansas City, Mo., and on the same day the American Political League at Boston. President McKinley is certain of a nomination by acclamation by the Republicans; while Mr. Bryan seems equally certain of a similar honor from the Democrats. In neither party does there seem to be a choice for a candidate for the second place.

There is a present chance that Admiral Dewey or some other "Gold Democrat" may obtain sufficient following to prevent the necessary two-thirds vote; but at present writing this seems unlikely. The Republican convention will meet in the building in which the International Export Exhibition was held last year. The city from its proximity to other large centers, will be over crowded. Chairman Hanna, who conducted the last campaign for McKinley so successfully, may not be physically strong enough to conduct this summer's work, in which case his mantle will undoubtedly fall on the shoulders of Hon. Perry S. Heath, the able Assistant Postmaster General and experienced politician; or, on those of Representative C. F. Dick, who is the Secretary of the Republican National Committee and long identified with the conduct of Ohio politics.

On the Democratic side the management will practically be the same as in the campaign of 1896, should Mr. Bryan be nominated. It, however, by any chance any other person should receive the great honor, Chairman Jones will retire and some friend of the nominee's be appointed. The convention hall at Kansas City in which the Democrats are to meet July 4th, was burned to the ground on the morning of April 4th. The building is to be immediately rebuilt and will undoubtedly be ready for the convention. Our sketch is from a photograph taken of the ruins. This convention is the first one ever held west of the Mississippi Valley and will attract vast attention and probably attendance, although Kansas City is not a "hotel town." It is anticipated there will be an attendance of not less than thirty thousand visitors while the hotels cannot contain a third of this number.



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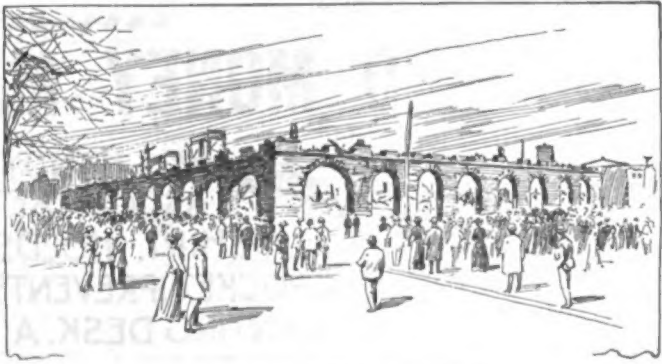


HON. PERRY S. HEATH.

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How to Cross the Ocean Cheaply and Comfortably.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.)

omy, "each dollar which they can properly save in the expenses of the journey." There are some economies which do not save, in the long run. No one can get the best results from travel—whether the results desired be profit or mere pleasure—unless in good physical condition. It does not pay to economize by eating food which is unpalatable or lacking in nourishment, and it is no saving to walk in order to save car or carriage fare, until one is too worn out to study intelligently the things which one has come to see. Better see fewer things and get all the good there is in them.

For this reason I would have a steamer chair while crossing the ocean. The steamer's deck will be provided with a plentiful supply of canvas camp stools and more or less comfortable small, folding, wooden chairs, but the long folding steamer chairs on which, when put in position one can lie almost as comfortably as on a couch, are private property. These can be bought in the large shops of any city, and usually in small shops near the ocean steamer wharves. The prices range from about \$2.50 upwards. If you have your own chair you have to give it away when you get to port, or have it stored or pawn it, as you do your wraps. I have always been able to hire one after I got on board, of one of the stewards, paying him about five shillings, \$1.25 of American money. If you have a chair and give it away, give it to one of the stewards. He will make it a source of income in the way I have mentioned. In any case do not neglect to give these men something in tips in the course of the voyage. The sum need not be large. A quarter now and then will go a good ways and bring back ten times its value in service. This is not extortion. It is a legitimate part of your traveling expenses, and should be reckoned with beforehand as such.

But speaking of steamer chairs, one more word. I cannot imagine anything more delightful to look forward to or back upon, than to lie on a blanket-spread steamer chair for ten long restful days, with nothing to look at but water and sky.

Some one may say, "But I shall be too seasick to find anything delightful." Perhaps so, but not surely. You may not be sick at all, or at least, not enough to amount to anything if you do not give way to it. I have never yet been seasick enough to cause me to lose any one of the four meals of every day I have been on board ship. This may in part be my good fortune, but I do not believe it is wholly that. I always take some simple laxative medicine for two or three days before sailing, and on the day I go on board am moderately careful what I eat and drink. Eat all you want to, but don't mix too many kinds. Don't drink beer at all nor too much whiskey.

I have found that if I am going to be sick at all—and I imagine this would hold true of other people—it will be when I first get out of my berth on the first morning at sea. The air of a state-room is always bad, at best, at that time, and any one is lucky who can stay in the state-room that first morning long enough to dress, without becoming sick. And like many other things, nausea is easier to start than to stop. Experience has taught me when I go to bed the first night, to put my clothing in the berth, or so near it that I can reach it easily. Then, in the morning, I dress me just as completely as I am able, still lying in the berth; then get down onto the floor, hustle the last two or three hitches which cannot be made in the bunk, and make a dash for the open deck. Don't stop to wash; you can come down for that later. Stay in the open air for half an hour. If you feel at all squeamish get out where you can face the wind—there is pretty sure to be enough of it—and stay there. Don't go to the extreme bow or stern of the ship; you will feel the motion a great deal worse there—and I do not believe you will be seasick long. Don't worry if your toilet is not quite perfect. No one will notice it. Most of the people on deck at that time—probably they did not hurry out into the air as you have done—will be too much occupied in leaning over the railing, to look at you, and if they do cast a glance at you between gulps will be too disgusted at your not being sick, too, to distinguish whether you have on clothes or a meal sack. I cannot imagine anything more aggravating than to be seasick and see some one else who is not.

Another thing, don't brace yourself against the motion of the vessel as if it were an enemy. Rather try and feel that it is a great, strong friend under whose protection you are glad to be. Too many inexperienced sailors, when they feel the steamer roll, or sink in the trough between two gigantic waves, instantly brace themselves stiff as posts in opposition. Don't do that. Let your knees bend and your body sway a little. Go with the motion, and not against it, and you will not only ward off seasickness, but you will learn to enjoy one of the greatest pleasures of a sea voyage; and come to know that the great ocean is a loving friend and not a buffeting foe.

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